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Blitz Kiva

鮫／牙

Illustration
すがのたすく

人外転生と まくるクラス

—クラスの骸骨参謀になつた俺—



My Entire Class Has Been Reincarnated – I Became the Weakest Skeleton!

Arc 2: Jindai High-school Demon King Army,
Eastward!

by Blitz Kiva

Novel Updates

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プロローグ

第一回 2年4組裏話記

第二回 車の転校生

第三回 地を割る紳士将軍

第四回 虚偽の心説

第五回 夜闇

エピローグ

新書ティーチャーリング Lesson 01

340 334 288 245 145 67 13 5



Chapter 15: Pursuit of the Girl and Exploring the Heavy Cruiser

She frantically ran. She never thought such monster could exist outside the walls.

Formerly built to defend against invasion from foreign enemies, it was decided to become part of the rampart over time. Defying that decision, the girl joined an organization as part of the investigation team in order to scout the outside world. She was accepted, though half of it was due to pity. It became evident she had no ability and became a burden to the soldiers. Yet she still requested to participate.

She was allowed, by a superior knight, to participate by being a magician in the middle of the group. With that done, there's no way she would hinder the other soldier when it comes to battle. It was both a relief and a dissatisfaction at the same time.

And so, while in the middle of investigating, a red winged demon appeared.

It's the first time she and the investigation group ever encountered such monster.

The demon, with an immense strength, keen wits, and like a hurricane, had slaughtered the girl's envoy one by one. The group had been partially eliminated. The girl acted as a decoy in order to let the remaining group member live. She ran. Casting away all traces of pride and duty, she ran towards the wasteland.

The demon had not given chase. The shadow of despair slowly fading away.

Where is this place?

She viewed the horizon of the wasteland. Left, right, east, west, north, and south, she could not see anything important at all. But one thing for sure, she understood if she continued eastward, she would reach her hometown though her provisions are none. Only a spear is in her hand. Though she might have lost

her bearing due to the sun beating down on her while enduring the fatigue and hunger, she continued eastward as she used the spear as a walking stick.

However, she soon reached her limits. She collapsed on the wasteland Ahh, so this is where I'll die. She thought.

Dad, Mom, Master and Kyosuke. I'm sorry. Please scold this careless and incompetent Serena in front of my grave.

Faintly losing conscience, she just managed to think of that.

After that, a short amount of time passed.

"Hmm?"

She heard a voice. Her eyelids were heavy and could not open. Yet she could confirm a silhouette shading her from the blazing sun on her back.

"Gen-chan, it's a little kid!"

"Mu.....is it dead?"

"It's a girl.....And a Human? Looks like we've discovered our first villager"

"Uumu....."

She could hear two people. Though the sounds were entering, she failed to comprehend anything.

"It's my first time seeing a human. I'd like to ask it something but unfortunately we need to hurry....."

"Eeh. Do we have to chase that red wing?"

Red Wing. Red, feathers. Hearing those words, her fingers twitched slightly.

"Ah, it's alive. But it considerably weakened.... What's the plan?"

"Can't be helped. We can't take her along as we pursue it. Zeku!"

Another person replied in a low voice, almost like a fearless growl of a beast.

"I want you to take this girl to the west, where our friends are currently living. Do you remember? Just past that rocky area and while continuing west, you'll reach the location. There's rockier area ahead but if you go inside, there's a labyrinth. That's where I lived with everyone."

West!? No way, at this rate I'll be separated from my hometown even more. She tried to revitalize energy into her body to protest, but she could barely move at all.

The shadow of the man called Zeku responded in a beast like growl and lifted the girl's body. Together with a strange feeling of floating, she's placed onto a rugged position, it's probably Zeku's back.

'It seems like I'm saved for now. But it's impossible for me to continue keeping conscience.'

She felt her body being embraced by a soft warm light. This is a recovery system magic. Thanks. It's not going to deceive the hunger but it'll help me sleep easier.

"Zeku, make sure you absolutely do not eat her at all, alright"

Just before her conscience paused, she heard a thoughtless and ominous command being given.



"I've~~been searching for treasure~ heave ho!"

Hearing that song for the first time, the first thought that came to my mind is how Rin is really tone-deaf.

"One more time~ Heave Ho"

Tsurugi, with her head placed on the table, picked up a pebble on the ground and stuck it in her ear. Her face turning pale after being disheartened. Rin's part of the Track and Field club, Tsurugi's part of the Kendo club, being the ace in their both respective clubs they are really close friends. If that's so, how many times have they gone karaoke together? I feel bad for her.

It seems she really doesn't care and is being quite open about being tone-deaf. Rather, she's enjoying herself being carefree while singing. How would I know of that? A portion of her body is acting like an amp's speaker or even changing into musical notes. Comparing her precise transformation to her singing voice is like comparing day and night.

This is the long awaited day in which we can finally explore the heavy cruiser.

The exploration members are myself, Rin, Akira, Tsurugi, Gofunkawahara and Okuma. "Demon King Class Rep." Ryuzaki is in charge of the exploration project and this is the first time a team has been sent to explore the outside. There were plans of adding Kogane, an expert at heavy cruiser or cruisers in general, but he himself and Akira opposed that proposition.

The negotiation with the goblins was recently a success. We apologized about the matter of the incident before, offering smoked croc meat as a present. With the present, we managed to somehow reconciled with the goblins.

And now we're currently in the captain's cabin.

"For the sake of my mother~ Heave Ho"

Rin, while still enjoying her singing, is examining every nook and cranny of the captain's cabin. In the center of the room is the remains of the captain's representative. It couldn't bear the destructive power of her voice as it rustled and rattled. That's a mean way to put it. The requiem is a bit too stormy.

"For the sake of my Father~ Hea.....Aree, what's wrong you two? Your hands stopped moving?"

"Aah, it's cause of your peculiar song you're singing tha....."

I hesitated over truthfully saying it, and stopped myself short by scratching my head.

"Aah, it's cause it's enlivening the mood here....."

"Himemizu, do you like singing?"

"Yup! Tsurugin praised me saying [Your singing is amazing!]"

Tsurugi's head on top of the table turned sideway and just hummed. She's indirectly pointing the blame elsewhere and tried to go with the flow of the song's tempo. It's maybe cause she didn't want to listen to the song anymore since in the end, she opened the table's drawer, placed her head in there, and closed it.

Rin, still singing the mysterious "Heave Ho workmen's song" , overturned the bookshelf.

There has to be an important clue or key in this heavy cruiser that came from

our world. How did they get here, how does it connect to this world, and if they met their end here? In order to find out, Ryuzaki sent us here.

“But still”

Tsurugi as she ransacked the drawer, making rustling sounds, and said in a muffled voice. Her voice is muffled since she stuffed her head inside the drawer. And yet, how is she able to see as she's not even hesitating while searching for things.

“I’m just thinking as I’m touching the things from our original world.....but how does these thing come to this world?”

“Lets see. Maybe it’s cause of an unforeseen incident?”

“If it isn’t an incident, then what else?”

Rin and I, while still moving our hands in search for any clues, casually responded. Rin suddenly stopped moving and thought 『Hmmm~m』

“I dunno! If it isn’t an incident, then someone probably planned for this!”

“A plot? There’s a person who would want and thought of sending us to this world?”

“That’s why I said I dunno~”

Right, we really won’t know. For that reason, we are searching for clues.

And it seems that there is really no clue here in the captain’s cabin at all. Even a ship’s log would be better than nothing.

And with no results beside the rustling sounds, Akira drifted into the entrance of the captain’s cabin.

“Tsurugi, can you break down the rusting door over here. Can you also help me with exploring the interior of it too, for a bit”

“N, alright”

And so, Tsurugi left with Akira out of the captain’s cabin. Seeing them off, we continued our fruitless search.

I opened each book and flipped through the pages when suddenly, I noticed Rin’s hands(?) stopped moving.

"Whats up? Himemizu"

"Nnfuuuu~....."

She leaked out a suspicious laughter

".....What's wrong? Himemizu"

"Utsurogi-kun.....You see, I've been doing special training!"

"Special training? What kind"

I asked and stopped working for a moment. This might be some kind of important matter.

"I can't win against the legal wife Akira-kun, I'll lose to Sacchan in seduction, Okuma-kun has already won in character development...."

"Ah, You've also developed deeply as a character already Himemizu"

"Besides being called a triangular corner, I also! In order to get the upper advantage I....!"

"What are you sayin.....Uwaaa!?"

Raising the tension in a strange fashion, I looked at Rin and I shriek.

First of all, Rin has hands now. It sprung from her body, extending more and now parts of it even reached the floor as she slowly transformed her entire body. It's as if she's the original Himemizu body but her upper body showed a scene where it continuously grew. Though of course her entire body is blue and in a semi-liquid state, her feminine upper body became strangely captivating.

With her upper body, *Fuun* she snorted from her nose and crossed her arms.

"Whaddya think! Ne, Whaddya think Utsurogi-kun! Ne ne!"

"I guess you lost your character as a triangular corner and turned into a strange human form"

"You meanie! Take a closer look! Look at my huge breast! What kind of breast do you like!? I can change it to the best bust of your liking....."

Bashan as the sound of Rin's figure immediately is smashed. Her bust inflated like a balloon and left no trace of her upper body behind. She soon began

dragging and creeping her body to gather into a slime again.

A tiny bit of awkward mood streamed the area.

“.....Ah–, I like em small”

“That’s not going to bring any kind of comfort at all! Uuu—As I thought, 90 seconds is my limit—!”

“If you last another 9 seconds, you can be a Makai Knight.....”

“I guess I have to live like this now....”

Moving to a corner of the room, Rin transformed into a triangular corner. Though it’s supposed to be hard to maintain the transformation, if she has contact with the walls to support her, she can maintain it for more than 90 seconds. If she maintains her contact with the wall, it’s useful as she’s becoming more and more like a triangular corner without the smell.

“What does a Triangular corner smell like!? Terribly fishy!”

“How can you read my mind without being in contact with me!?”

“Ah, *Gohon!!* You guys!”

Behind us is an audible muffled voice. We straighten up like a point. Rin has no spine, but at any rate, she’s still in a vertical line.

That’s right, Tsurugi is still here in this room. Or more accurately, her head is inside the drawer.

“You have some nerves flirting in front of me, a public morals committee member!”

“We weren’t flirting!”

“You did just a moment ago!”

“Don’t retort back!”

Inside the drawer, the public moral committee member is raging with fire as if she’s angry.

“And talking about b, bb, breast!? Best Bust!? Since when did you become such a indecent girl Rin!!”

"I've been this indecent since way back then when we had gym classes and Tsurugin's breast is always bigger than mine, so I was jealous of you and always rubbed and held it!!"

Too much information. It can get a man's important part excited. I'm blessed this body does not have one but.

Anyways, we have to soothe Tsurugi's anger for now. I walked towards the table and opened the bottom most drawer. Inside is Tsurugi, who's face is bright red. It's almost scary actually.

"Seriously Utsurogi! You too! Diligently think of your spirit as a man...."

"But I'm all bones now"

And as I picked up Tsurugi's head from the drawer, that's when I noticed that there is another thing in there.

It looks like a book or something like that. I turned around and threw Tsurugi's head at Rin (I could hear her scream) and pluck the book out from the drawer. The front cover is written as Gol s'pihs

Ah, no, its in the wrong direction

Ship's log

"Found it!"

"Really!?"

Rin lets go of Tsurugi's head and it fell (Screaming again) and crept over to where I'm at.

"Uwaaa–, its true! It's a Ship's log!"

"You guys, is there anything else you want to say!?"

Tsurugi shouted, though she was not injured due to the sands nearby the former Captain of Japan's Navy corpse cushioning her fall.

"Sorry Tsurugi"

"Umu"

"Didn't you also search this place earlier before?"

“What?”

At any rate, the desk drawers is the most obvious place to search for. When we first entered the room, Tsurugi had supposedly thoroughly checked it. And so she used her muscles to move her head to strangely fixed her sights on the desk.

“.....I’m sure I searched it all”

“Tsu, Tsurugin.....”

“But at that time I placed me head on top of the desk, if I think about it, I couldn’t see what was inside”

“So it’s true that you have no vision without your head right!!”

“Tsurugin, what have you been doing all this time then!?”

In the first place, how is she directing her body in following Akira?

Hearing the clattering sounds of footsteps, Tsurugi’s body came back into the captain’s cabin. And with both hands and feet, she prostrated herself in front of us.

“Fu, Fuun! If it wasn’t for me pointing out your illicit sexual relationship you were enjoying, you’ve would have never found it in the first place!”

“Tsurugi, your body does not match what your head is saying”

“This is commonly referred to as the “Lips are lying but the body is honest„ kind of person.....”

While viewing the nice style of the female knight’s body, we half-heartedly muttered.

Well, enough of our comedic conversation since we found the thing we’ve been looking for. The dishonest head returned to its honest body, and we left the captain’s cabin. And as we were about to tell Akira and the others, we heard someone yelling from the direction of the deck.

“Ooooi, everyone, come here for a bit-!”

It’s Gofunkawahara. Behind us came Akira and Okuma. And as we all checked to make sure everyone was present, we nodded and went towards the deck.



Gofunkawahara had been talking with the goblins leader about the previous battle, the destruction of the bow, and the severe state of the ship.

“Whats going on Gofunkawahara?”

“Aah, I just talked with those guys’ boss. Is that the ships machine gun up there? Or probably an artillery gun? It’ll be nice if we can take that”

Hearing those words, Akira muttered 『I see now』

Certainly this rusty machine gun interior could be put to use. There’s no ammunition and it can’t move too. But that’s only the situation for the goblins, though it could be said the same to us. How the heck are we going to bring this back and what use would there be for it?

“Kuremori can fix this”

“Kuremori-kun? He’s in the same modeling club as you are right? What did he reincarnate into?”

“A “Gremlin” debu.”

Rin body formed a question mark and Okuma answered

“It’s a monster in England that rides airplanes. If it touches any machine, it would cause a malfunction. Well, most of the maintenance failure was blamed on the monster though debu.”

“Ah—”

Rin nodded every time.

“Is it the same as the place where Stalin is buried?”

“That’s Kremlin.”

And I’m surprised her intelligence shone when solving random questions involving the same Stalin.

“It’s one of those guys you shouldn’t give food to in the middle of the night”

“Ooh, Utsurogi is well informed debu.”

It’s a good thing I like old foreign movies. The Warner Brother’s “Gremlin” .

It's a masterpiece!

Kuremori appears to be similar to Gofunkawahara as he reincarnated. However, if comparing to Gofunkawahara, he's weaker, he's the typical indoors type of person, and has had little chances to go out and fight. Instead, he's more skillful with his hands than Gofunkawahara and fixed up the ruined base, one after another. Kuremori is also the one to revive the heavily relied on water supply, where the kitchen Sugiura is in and the garden Kano is in needed it the most.

As a result, he has been recognized not as a goblin, but as a gremlin now. By the way, a lot of other also saw the movie and knows not to feed a gremlin at night. He also can't swim or bathe in water, so I fell bad for him.

Anways, if it's Kuremori, then he can possibly fix this machine gun to normal.

"Truth is, Okuma and I also thought of the same thing"

Akira saying so and Okuma brought out an iron rod. It's a rifle.

"We also wanted to give this to Kuremori to fix debu"

"The room with the rusted door had gun powder inside. Though it might have gone bad, it's worth it to give it a try, right?"

It's could be a good idea, as doing so will expand our war potential.

Using the rifles or artillery doesn't require much specification or power from anyone. Of course, for those users who are extremely clumsy, they would not use it. But it could fill in the gaps for those who reincarnated without much physical strength or magical powers. Kuremori and Kano can also participate in battle if they wanted.

Gofunkawahara already seemed to have negotiated with the goblin's boss. It's probably seen as junk in their eyes anyways. They only required croc meat as a condition.

"We also found this thing debu"

Okuma said so while pulling out a small cylindrical object. Tsurugi asked "A telescope?"

"That's right debu! The wasteland is vast. This way....."

Okuma put the telescope on his eyes and scanned the horizon. Though the lens may be cracked, it can be of use still. But soon afterward, he hummed 『Hmm?』and tilted his head to the side.

“Goubayashi.....?”

“Eh, Really!?”

I unintentionally questioned in return.

“Aah, no, its different debu. It’s different from Goubayashi appearance. It’s another ogre debu....And it looks like he’s carrying a girl debu”

“Ahh, I see”

Though I’m slightly disheartened, I was still stuck on remembering Okuma’s other words.

And I suddenly realized. It wasn’t just me alone. Rin, Tsurugi, and immediately everyone understood.

“A girl!? A human!?”

“Looking closely, there’s no horn, feather or tail but ordinary eyes, legs and body. And also....”

“Also?”

“Looks like something is chasing after them debu”

We exchanged glances with each other. An ogre is carrying a human with something chasing them.

“Is it a sand worm....debu. Its fairly larger and looks like an earthworm type of monster debu.”

“Understood. Lets go help them”

I replied and Tsurugi immediately nodded. Akira, being the usual way he is, hurled a reprimand at me.

“Kyosuke, again with this!”

“I know what you want to say but that can be a clue to this world!”

I ran up towards the edge of the deck and stared at the location Okuma had

been looking at previously. It does look like some kind of big monster is moving around. At this rate, the damage might reach the heavy cruiser and even our base location. Akira also understood this too.

Haa, as Akira signed

“You know what I’m going to say! Without me here, you’ll instantly do something rash you know!”

“Even with you here I’ll still do it. Lets go Himemizu, it’s fusion time!”

“I’ve been waiting! Fusion! Go!!”

Rin’s body completed the fusion as it coiled around my body. We jumped from the deck with Rin changing into the reverse bipedal mode and increasing the flesh around the leg. By doing so it increased the shock absorption from landing. The instant we landed, her flesh shifted to the next phase of increasing the power output in order to change into sprinter mode.

Tsurugi also jumped from the deck and ran through the wasteland after us. Meanwhile, Akira flew in a straight line behind us.

“Haa-. I also want to nag like Hino-kun.....”

“I wouldn’t want that. You can remain like you are now”

“Oh, seriously!? Then I’ll try my best to do just that!”

Hearing our conversation, Tsurugi plugged both of her ears with her arms.

Chapter 16: Melancholy of the Class Rep Demon King

“W, What the heck is going onnnnn — !”

Being carried on the Ogre's back, the girl screamed in bewilderment.

She couldn't understand the situation she's in. It's odd for a human to be carried upon by an ogre in the first place.

The ogres essentially are mankind's enemy. There are individual differences, but they are violent by nature. They are superior in terms of physical strength when comparing it to humans too. With just a swing of their arm, humans can easily become blood bags.

She's on the back of the Ogre being carried, but it doesn't look like she'll become a meal for it.

And that's not the only odd situation going on. First of all, it seems that the ogre is seriously trying to run away from something.



The thing the ogre is running away from is a Wilderness Worm.

A Wilderness worm has been confirmed to be found outside the wall and is

generally a large monster. It's a subspecies of the sandworm that can be found living in the desert, and it can bite through the tough grounds of the wastelands. Its territory is quite wide and she's sure two Wilderness Worm can equal the rampart.

It seems that even if the Ogres are of a higher standing in the ecosystem, it can't help but also be a prey to the Wilderness Worm.

I see now, I Serena am once again getting smarter!

"Ah, no no! What is going on! Ne, What is going on here!?"

She asked as she grabbed onto the ogre's horn, though of course no answer came.

She then recalled what happened earlier. She was attacked by the Red Winged Demon, collapsed and was puzzled as to why those two saved her. Those two called out to that being known as "Zeku" and asked it to carry her. This Ogre's name just might be that "Zeku".

As she held onto Zeku's horn, she turned around.

The Wilderness Worm, fearsome and yet majestic.

Its overall length is about 10 times the size of a regular human, and could almost be 2 times in diameter. Its fang from its mouth easily crushing the wasteland solid grounds. Ah no, it's spreading around its drool, or is it possibly a strong acid? With that, it easily penetrated the rocky ground. That's more logical.

Extremely scary.

It took a considerable amount of willpower to endure not wetting myself. How can I even do so on the back of the ogre that is carrying me while escaping? It'll be very rude to wet the back of the Ogre. Humans are logical beings. Hold on, be patience.

Aah, but this might just be the end. The Wilderness Worm is slowly catching up to us. In just 10 seconds it could latch on and bite me to death. Thinking so, tears spontaneously flowed.

Aah, Father, Mother, Master and lastly Kyosuke. Please scold this stupid and

incompetent Serena in front of her grave!

Gripping the horn and she brought herself closer to the nearest ear.

“OOOOOOooriAAaaaaaaa————!!”

At that time, a blue shell struck the flank of the Wilderness worm ◇◇◇

Jindai High 2–4’s “Demon King” inaugurated class rep Ryuzaki Kunihiro, is greatly troubled.

I am presently in the newly established “Strategy Room”. It used to be Kogane’s personal room but since there was a bit of room left, chairs and desks were brought in. Lately, I’ve been here like a permanent resident in the Strategy Room. Of course, it’s not like I’ll abandon my position.

On top of the desk is a map of the dungeon up to the 11th floor and a list of all the classmates. These past few days were spent investigating the dungeon and starting to understand the particular structure of it. Until now, students have been forming groups with their own friends and exploring the dungeon on their own but for the sake of optimization, parties are being formed.

Matching the party, how reliable one is in the party and if one of the students can use recovery magic.

Also there are those who are the vanguard type and those who are the magicians... etc etc, to be evenly split.

Understanding each student’s personality, I didn’t struggle so much in the composition of the team but naturally the classmates burst into dissatisfaction. But at last Akai said “Then die?”, thus forcibly putting pressure on those dissatisfied.

Of course it’s not like those students who are bad with each other are in the same team. I tried as much as possible to make sure the team composition was assembled based on cooperation. Each group had one student to relay the instructions. If problems were to arise in a party, then they’ll be rearranged.

It’s a headache inducing task.

“How did the teachers manage to change class daily, with more than 40 students in a class sometimes....”

I muttered as I'm still greatly troubled.

The remaining people are the Kitchen staff Sugiura, the Kitchen garden staff Kano and others, who already held position at the base. As a general rule, no one is an exception to the rule of shouting their dissatisfaction. Even if it's the Queen Akai or Inugami. Akai simply stated "Nope, I'm doing base defense.....", but that job is based on a rotation and entrusted to the party assigned. In the end, she also had to join in the exploration.

Akai is, well it's fine. Sakuma is in the same group and Kagoi (gargoyle) is assigned as the vanguard so it's a balance of both war potential and human relations. Last is the recovery user Hakuba. With the war potential considerably high, this party is temporarily the strongest group now.

The problem are the others. The other day there were problems with Kogane and his other followers, Washio and Hakuba, group. Moreover, the two girls along with them, Kumosaki and Kikino, have a very high amount of hate. For that reason, their party assignment has been exceedingly difficult.

Lastly is, well its Inugami. There's not a single person who is compatible with her who is deemed as a delinquent.

And of course there's no one who can act as a buffer to that beside Sakuma, who is already limited with Akai, who was dissatisfied before.

Excataly at that time, *Kon Kon*, as the door is knocked.

"Ryuzaki-kun, it's Sakuma"

"Aah, come in"

Gachari, as the door opened and Sakuma entered. Not having the usual heart throbbing clothing on, she wore a coat like clothing to cover her upper area. She's also covered her 'suggestive' body figure and wore a skirt, but some of the male students now prefers what lies past the skirt hem.

"Just came back from the exploration? That was quite fast, isn't it?"

"Asuka-chan wanted to finished it quickly and pushed us forward."

The girls had requested to explore the newly found 12th floor.

I knitted my brows and stood up.

"Here it is. The map of the 12th floor. Looks like there's a lot of small type monsters there"

"It's mainly monsters that can hide from the Wight King....that would be my first choice to do too"

She presented a written report, detailing no hardships from the monster they encountered in the center. Well, in any case Akai would not go all out but she is the top in the class in terms of war potential. They would probably not even face an unexpected difficulty, even if a strong monster were to appear.

"Are there no other problems?"

"....."

I asked while viewing the report. Sakuma just slightly showed an ambiguous smile.

".....It's not from our group but, on our way back, the other kids were...."

"A split amongst each other?"

"Un. It's Kogane's group."

"Again....."

With a loud sigh, the report is placed on top of the desk.

The most endowed in magical abilities, Kogane Yoshiki. If he were to get along with the class, he would become an essential war power. Thinking so, I put him in a group but didn't think the problem would be this deep-rooted.

Kogane has been tossed back and forth between different groups. Wherever I placed him, dissatisfaction always arised. Comparing to Washio, who can be placed into a group with another student acting as the buffer to the dissatisfactions, Kogane has no one.

Kogane is impossible. With his actions seen until now, that may be the reason why.

"Honestly"

Kyuu as Sakuma tugged her coat collar and turned her head.

"I also wont be comfortable with being in the same group as

Kogane....because it's still frightening.”

“Yea, I understand.....”

She was assaulted by Kogane in the dining hall.

Assaulted might not be the corrected wording. However, that matter was obviously an overkill. An introverted literature girl such as Sakuma receiving such a shock from that experience, it's natural for her to say so. It's a good thing Utsurogi Kyosuke stepped in during that time. For if he did not jump in, the wound may be deeper.

“Anyways, I understand. I'll think about what to do with Kogane”

“U, un. By the way.....”

Sakuma glanced her eyes towards the corner of the strategy room. I also turned there.

Over there is an exact human size coffin. I muttered 『Aah』 and smiled bitterly. That's right, this guy is also a pain in the neck.

“It's fine. In the first place this guy is”

“Etto, o, ok.....? Umm, then, I'll be on my way to lunch....”

“If Utsurogi is back, can you call for me?”

“E, i, its fine..... I'll come get you myself”

Sakuma made a small smile and left the strategy room. I once again heaved a heavy sigh.

Comparing to the days when I was a rotting “lizard”, everyday is fulfilling and having something worth doing. But the anxiety has increased by 2 or 3 times. The classmates who understand are secretly supporting in the background in place of Goubayashi in consideration of what he undertook.

This class has a mountain of challenges. It's been fine so far with this class but with any eventful thing happening, it can change the current circumstances. I have to somehow maintain that.

And so Ryuzaki walked towards the corner of the room where the coffin was placed. Snores could be heard so he kicked it with all his strength.



“OOOOOOooriAAaaaaaaa—————!!”

A big jump kick from our running approach. It has no special name to it but it was the most optimum blow for an entry. The strength of the blow is strong due to the special training we've undertook, along with impacting it horizontally, which caused the worm's balance to greatly crumble.

As Rin and I landed, we took on the Jeet Kune Do stance. Glancing towards them, the girl, who is on the back of the ogre, eyes widen in surprise. The Ogre, in comparison to Goubayashi, is on the shorter side. However, the Ogre is just as surprised as the girl.

“E, etto, you are.....”

“Just a Skeleton passing by”

As I said so, I faced towards the Sand Worm.

“.....”

But immediately afterward I snapped my head back.

“You can understand me!?”

“Hiiii! A talking Skeleton!?”

“Don't reply back in such a surprised voice!”

The girl, while strangling the ogre's neck, trembled as if frightened.

She doesn't look like a Japanese. Her eyes are blue and with golden colored hair with a peculiar ahoge bouncing back and forth. She's holding onto a spear-like item, wearing gauntlets and metal boots.

“Yuuup, fantasy-like clothing.....”

Rin muttered.

“Hiiiiiii! A talking Slime!?”

“She's able to recognize me as a Slime! This girl is amazing!”

“A, no um, um no, no um, about monster's ecology I've s—s—studied.....
ettto”

No matter how I look at it, what she's saying to how she's speaking does not match each other. She's speaking like a mechanized doll but somehow it seems that her words when speaking to us is automatically translated. I don't know if this is part of a monster's ability or an automatic comprehension ability given to us when we reincarnated.

But it's necessary for us to get information. So I once again took posture as the Worm stood vigilance while staring at us.

Exactly at that time, Tsurugi finally caught up behind us.

"Utsurogi, Rin, sorry for being late!"

"Aaaah!? A knight came! I'm saved, I....."

"Mu, You can understand me! Sorry, but look after my head!"

"Hiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiii! The head! The head aaaaa!!"

Tsurugi tossed her head but the girl fainted with bubbles foaming out her mouth. Just before the head barely fell, the ogre caught it.

"Utsurogi-kun, she fainted!"

"Tsurugi, you didn't have to do that just now....."

"Wh, what!? What did I do wrong this time!?"

The confused and headless public morals committee member asked while unsheathing her sword.

The girl who fainted soon began muttering as if having a nightmare.

"U,uuu.....That monster is a Wilderness Worm.....It spits strong acid from its mouth and for it to withstand the pressure of being underground, its shell is twice as strong as....."

"This girl is amazing!"

"Munya, Munya..... I can't eat anymore Father....."

"What? A Wilderness Worm?"

Rin's questioning is quite plausible at this time but this girl in a dreamy state of mind is doing so at the wrong place! The Wilderness Worm's drool drips as it

began threatening us. The hanging drool plopped onto the wasteland ground, *Jyuuu* as it landed with smokes rising.

“As its shell is tough, seems like we’ll need to concentrate our aim”

“Aah, even our kick didn’t seem to leave a single crack”

“Utsurogi, I’ll create a crack using my sword. I’ll leave the rest to you”

As she said so, Tsurugi vigorously ran as she kicked the ground.

If Akira was here, he’d possibly scold us for our reckless actions. We don’t even know the full extent of this thing’s ability. However, we both decided to support that idea.

The Wilderness worm aimed at the running Tsurugi. It’s giant frame easily wriggling, with a diameter of 3 meters, as its large mouth opened to swallow the girl. Meanwhile, I ran the opposite direction Tsurugi ran and as soon as I was behind it, I held my hand aloft.

“Strike”

Hearing those words, Rin understood the next technique to be used.

““Spike!!!””

At the same time the solidified hand struck, Rin stretched to form a thorn like shape. However, the tough shell didn’t receive a single wound.

“Kuu!”

“Utsurogi-kun, extend your arm!”

“A, aah! I got it!”

As I leapt, I swung my right arm. *Byunn* as Rin changed into a whip like shape while extending. But it’s not just extending. It carried along my right arm, from the elbow joint to the radius and ulna, with plenty of force. Understanding her intentions, the extended arm struck the tough portion and hooked on.

“.....!!”

The Wilderness Worm, unhappy with this, began twisting its body, changing its target from Tsurugi to us. However, comparing how fast the large mouth closed in, Rin quickly rewound her body. My body quickly reconnected with the

right arm that's latched onto the Worm. We've now boarded the Wilderness Worm upper body.

During that time, Tsurugi flanked around the worm.

Preparing her sword in the right hand, she performed an excellent kendo's "thrust" , piercing the Worm's body. It was a perfect thrust that aimed at the location between the shell.

「！！」

The Worm didn't thrash in pain at all. Comparing to a human, it's probably like a small needle pricking the skin. But it seems that the sword is unexpectedly deep, as blood flowed down the blade. The blood is green too.

"Utsurogi, Rin, its up to you!"

Tsurugi said as she leapt and took her distance from the Wilderness Worm.

"Yosh, let's do this Himemizu!"

"Osshshaaa!"

With my right hand reconnected, Rin extended *Byuuurn* again towards the blade's handle along with me.

"Let's pull it out the shell! Sounds good!"

"Yea!"

The sword acted as a lever, with a small gap wide enough between the shell. Rin and I thrust our hands in between and use strength from our entire body.

""""Ooooooooryaaaaaaa!"""

This surely caused a considerable amount of pain. The Wilderness Worm *Batan Batan* thrashed about. Even so, we paid no heed to it and continued to stand firm.

Beri, Beri as the sound of it loosening made and soon after it came unstuck from the twofold shell of the Wilderness Worm. Inside, the soft green flesh is exposed. I removed more of the shell and with the extracted sword, I thrust the sword into the green flesh again.

「！！！！」

Fushyaaa as the sound is made together with blood spurting from the green flesh.

“Kyosuke, are you ok!!”

“Utsurogi, Himemizu, Tsurugi!”

“Reinforcement has arrived debu!”

Akira, Gofunkawahara and Okuma arrived. Those three are together with the Ogre holding onto Tsurugi’s head, while also being preoccupied with the girl on its back, and soon turned their attention to the Wilderness Worm and us.

“Good timing! Akira, let me borrow your power!”

“Got it! Himemizu, switch!”

“OOkaay–! Fusion, release!”

While holding onto Tsurugi’s sword, I jumped off the Wilderness worm’s body. Rin released the fusion and fell to the ground *Zururi*. As I freefall, Akira simultaneously flew upwards in my direction and soon enveloped my entire body in fire. Fire spurted throughout my body, acting as thrusters, allowing us to float in midair.

“Akira, we’re aiming at the portion where the shell came off. Let’s roast the insides!”

“Roger that. There’s less risk than aiming for the mouth too”

The Wilderness Worm, enraged due to its shell ripped off and the pain, violently let loose a spray of its strong acid. And that’s when we decided to strike at its opened spot.

Casting aside Tsurugi’s sword (a shriek could be heard too), we placed both hands facing each other. Supplying both magic and fire, a massive sphere of fire is created. With the fire sphere growing by the second, it increased in both power and energy.

“Prominence!”

And we took a pitching stance with our breathing in unison.

“Baaaaaaaaaaaa———————||||||!!!”

Thus, like the time with the Wight King, another explosion happened here. Just like the sun's radiance imitated by the fire sphere, it fired in a straight line towards the Worm's body, crashing into the exposed flesh. Soon afterward, the intense explosion roasted the insides of the Wilderness Worm.

Having a tough shell backfired on it. Its twofold shell has great insulations and with the exploding energy affecting everything, it easily became charred. Raising its last shriek, it slowly collapsed to the ground. For a moment, it twitched *piku piku*, but soon stopped moving in the end.

I slowly descended towards the ground, Akira canceled the fusion.

"Uuuuun....."

Rin called out in a bitter voice.

"Of course Akira get to deal the finishing blow....."

"Don't feel bad about it Himemizu. With your great hand to hand combat and driving it into a corner, a fire specialization form could easily finish it off. It's the standard form change tactics."

"It's not like I don't know, but I just get the constant feeling like I lost my place in line at a delicious place"

She appealed as her lips formed a pouting shape using her whole body to form it like 「3」to express her feelings.

"Oi, Utsurogi, what's with this girl, why she fainted"

"Hm, ahh. Tsurugi's freshly severed head was the finisher for that"

Gofunkawahara pointed at the girl who's foaming at the mouth and eyes as white, to which I answered. Tsurugi's head, held by the Ogre, became embarrassed.

But still, who is this girl and the Ogre? And while we all inclined our heads, Okuma stepped forward. *Tayun* as his belly shook.

"....."



Okuma silently glared at the Ogre, with the Ogre returning the gaze back at Okuma. And for a short while, the wasteland hushed.

Suddenly, Okuma slapped his belly, *Supaaan* as it resounded.

The Ogre's eyes widen in surprise and gently laid the head of Tsurugi and the girl to the ground. It then decided to splendidly take a side chest pose. It's emphasis on the Ogre's magnificent chest thickness showed and immediately after it performed an abdominal and thigh pose followed by a double biceps to display his muscles. Rin *pechan pechan* as she pseudo clapped, in addition to Tsurugi showing admiration.

While Okuma nodded his head, he naturally slapped his belly and furthermore placed emphasis on his slacked chin's flesh.

And for a short while, a symphony of muscles and flab rapport continued, as everyone else had trouble understanding.

And finally, Okuma turned towards us and spoke

"This guy is Zeku. He's one of Goubayashi's comrade debu."

"You understood all that from just that!?"

I shouted, acting as a proxy for everyone sentiments.

~~~~Author's note~~~~

Next update is tomorrow at 7!

A girl thrown in the midst of a monster class, it's sure to spell trouble! Enjoy!

# Chapter 17: Transfer Student Serena

She's dreaming. It's a dream dating back to when she was very young while playing in the villa's garden.

Just a bit further away was Mother and Father drinking tea, as they watched over Serena and the siblings play.

Serena, birthed by two excellent parents with superior abilities, had too low of a talent. Whether it be in swordsmanship or magic. Even in school she studies very hard but still comes out as average. On the other hand, her younger brother is superior.

Spiteful rumors from people spread, saying the two superior parent's inferior genetics were passed onto the older sister, while the superior genetics were passed onto the younger brother.

『I got you, Nee-chan!』

『Gofuu.....』

The younger brother tackled the older sister in the pit of her stomach. All the air gushed forth from Serena's lungs as she gave away an odd shriek.

『U, ugu, guu.....Kyo, Kyosu.....ke.....』

『Ah, sorry』

To Serena who held her stomach while in pain, the younger brother Kyosuke smiled wryly and extended his hands.

『Nee-chan's the same as always. How are you going to protect the country like that』

『T, there's no shame.....』

『Well whatever. I'll be the one to protect this country and Nee-chan!』

Kyosuke said so while smiling and exposing his white teeth.

To the miserable older sister, she, in fact, happily accepted what the younger

brother declared. Grabbing Kyosuke's hand, she slowly stood up which marked the end of Serena's dream. During the slumber, she felt her shoulder shaking, and gradually came back.

Serena woke up

"Ah, oi. You finally woke up!"

"Really"

"Just like a human....."

She heard voices. The surrounding is pretty noisy. Seems she must have been carried into a human settlement. Safe.

She didn't know of any human settlements outside the walls but this is a favorable situation as there's no danger being for the time. Serena rubbed her eyes while opening her eyelids.

Suddenly, in front of her were faces, faces and more faces.

Ogres, Orcs, Goblins, Gargoyle, Gryphon, Harpy, Lamia, and various other monsters. She thought there were "humans" here but instead it wasn't what she expected.

"U, U-n....."

With an overload of information flooding her, to naturally protect herself, the girl Serena once again fainted.



"I see, Goubayashi ...."

Kyosuke finished his report in the strategy room as Ryuzaki smiled.

"If he believe in us enough to follow us, we can't just deny him any hospitality."

According to the conversation Okuma and Zeku had, Zeku met Goubayashi a little to the east from the rocky area and as a result of losing in a fist fight, joined together with him. In accordance to Ogres society, which relies on the muscles, those who lost as a result of a fist fight must serve the winner.

And with that, Goubayashi entrusted Zeku with this girl. She seemed to have

been found collapsed in the wastelands. Since Goubayashi's group were hasty with their plans, they left Zeku with the girl and directions to head southeast.

Okuma and Zeku are both waiting for the girl's eyes to open.

"Other reports include weapons from the heavy cruiser, and the Wilderness Worm....."

Ryuzaki looked at the report while scratching his head. Kyosuke just nods.

"The Wilderness Worm was quite a problem. It's very difficult when trying to damage the exterior. But in our case, well it turned out alright but...."

Truth is, that type of monster was an unexpected encounter outside of the base. From here onward, it might be a cause of concerns for the future exterior exploration teams. They can't confine themselves in the base too, since the Wilderness Worm can dig through the grounds. Who knows when it could have reached the underground labyrinth.

"Because of that the weapons.....or what I like to call it, but they're 70 years old rifles and will probably have problems dealing damage"

"There's also this Ryuzaki, here. It's the main reason we went, the Ship's log"

"Aah, thanks. When things settle down I'll read it. There's too many things going on right now"

It's probably not just because of the girl and the Wilderness Worm as Kyosuke thought to himself.

Kyosuke knew that lately Ryuzaki has been troubled over the formation of the labyrinth exploration party these past few days. There's the issues of the team count, with scarce amount of students that has recovery abilities, and with balancing the team by placing those close to each other in the same group by all means. In addition, there's also Kogane and which group to place him in.

If Akira agreed, it'd be the best idea to place Kogane in their group.

As of now, their group consisted of Kyosuke, Rin and Akira. So to speak, "Team Useless" .

If Kogane were to join their group, he would increase the battle balance, he's able to use recovery magic, they can guarantee his whereabouts and overall

would be a good idea.

But Akira will probably not accept this.

Lately, there the public assumption that there's no danger outside of the labyrinth, so many figured that the "Team Useless" would not necessarily need the extra strength to explore the heavy cruiser. But just for insurance, Tsurugi and Okuma came along yet there's still no one who can use any recovery ability. But they judged it to be fine without that person.

And then the Wilderness Worm appeared. From now on, if they were to send students to the heavy cruiser, they should not hide its existence any longer.

"I'm really dissatisfied about how you guys are being called as "Team Useless" however..."

Ryuzaki is talking about the "Full Cross"(Written as Black Knight). But Kyosuke shrugged.

"Me too. But Akira still wants to conceal it and would absolutely be unreasonable for it to come out. Well, if we were to split apart, we'd truly become useless for sure...."

"Well, I'll be the one forming the party composition. You've been paying more attention to things I've missed, I've also received the reports."

Kyosuke thought he made a somewhat overestimation of him. Did Kyosuke really notice what he couldn't?

"First of all, about the weapons from the cruiser. I'll talk with Kuremori about it tomorrow"

"Please, class rep. By the way...."

As Kyosuke's eyes(none) turned towards the corner of the room. Ryuzaki also followed his sight and expressed a wry smile.

Like being displayed in a British Museum, there lay a lavish gold coffin. Even now, snores could be heard coming from it.

"Aah, its fine. I just woke it up awhile ago. And then received it's powers for abit"

“Did ya kick it hard?”

“Without even waking that guy, Harao, up.”

He was always the “my pace” kind of guy back then too. When he came to this side, he still had no spurs.

Kyosuke originally had no relationship with him, but he became a similar undead like Kyosuke and frankly, Kyosuke became a little envious of his abilities.

“Harao, is no one upset with this guy’s treatment?”

“Wellll I mean. There’s the incident with Kogane, along with Kagoi’s group trying to drag the coffin along. However, being displeased by it, they were cursed”

“The Pharos’s(Harao) curse eh. But it seems like you’re not afflicted?”

“Nahh, I’m cursed relatively at a frequency....And just abit more before.”

“Ah, I see....”

Seems like the Demon King class rep’s anxiety is never-ending. Kyosuke honestly pitied him.

And after having light chat with Ryuzaki, Kyosuke left the room. Rin and Akira should probably be at the dining hall right?

It’s almost time for that girl to wake up as well right? And so Kyosuke began walking towards the dining hall.



“I am Sakuma Sachiko. You are?”

“Umm, Serena.....desu”

As Kyosuke arrived at the dining hall, Sakuma began asking questions to the girl.

Besides Sakuma talking with the girl, with the exception of Asuka sitting nearby, the rest of the students are watching a short distance away. Quite possibly since those two are the closest to being human, she would not be so nervous to the trial. It’ll also be good if Kogane was around but as Kyosuke

thought, his figure is nowhere to be seen.

As soon as Kyosuke stepped foot into the dining hall, a portion of the student's eye's were like needle as they faced him.

Since the case back then, the class mostly directed their hate towards Kogane and his former clique, Washio and gang. These past few days, truthfully, they wouldn't even lose to Kyosuke's group. Since Ryuzaki began putting more emphasis on division of roles based on everyone's abilities there remained Kyosuke's group "Useless" who stuck out.

So far, since the classmates were assigned in teams with close friends, they've been doing a lot and not paying much attention to his group. However, with the new division of roles, the close friends' teams were separated; Besides, even with being organized into trios with some close friends, hate towards his group began to increase.

Honestly at this point, aside from Akira, Rin had originally been a useless as well but with her nature and being in our team, the so called order became reversed. Furthermore, if they were to be separated, just like Ryuzaki mentioned, they'll really be useless to a team. But it's pointless speaking about that.

While being a little comforted from the bad experience, and stepping into the dining hall, Kyosuke walked towards his friends.

"Oh, Yaahoo. Utsurogi-kun"

"That's unexpectedly fast, Kyosuke"

Rin and Akira, not paying attention to the surrounding, turned towards him.

"How is it? That human girl"

"She's called Serena-chan. Said she's born from the far east kingdom and said she's a knight apprentice and that's about it?"

Kyosuke thought, I see, while nodding. His eyes drifted towards the girl called Serena. The Serena herself is intermittently looking over here.

Well, even though he say that, its cause everyone else is over here. To put it bluntly, she's surrounded by monsters so its understandable that her emotions

are unsettled.

From Akira and Rin talks, it became that Sakuma is getting information from the girl Serena.

Serena's country, in order to defend itself against the monsters from the west, built giant walls and thus established itself as nonaggressive. However, recently the ban has been lifted from going out the wall, so a party was formed to investigate the surrounding. And Serena inserted herself into that group.

However, she alone survived as the rest of her party experienced annihilation. The thing that attacked her party was a black armored, red winged demon. It was covered in full plate, having wings of flames, and it nimbly soar the skies.

When she described what happened, the dining room became full of commotion.

Black armor. Red wing. It's without a doubt the thing that defeated the Wight King, the unmistakable black night.

"Utsurogi-kun...."

Rin meekly voiced. Kyosuke nodded.

That black knight is him. And though they were out, they would never attack humans.

And yet the words that were spoken here, in regards to them, was bad news to hear.

"It's a good thing we concealed the identity of Full Cross"

As Akira spoke coldly. But Kyosuke couldn't do anything except nod.

Sakuma and Asuka knew the identity of the Black Knight. Sakuma stiffened for a moment, and in order to control the commotion in the dining hall, tried to continue in asking questions. She probably wanted to ask if that the red-winged demon and the black knight were not the same and if she's mistaken. But understanding that it was foolish to think of that for a moment, her lips hesitated for a moment.

Substituting for Sakuma, Asuka continued with the investigation of Serena. Nonetheless, she did so while fiddling with her nails and with her usual

behavior.

"So, you, what are you going to do from here on?"

"Hee?"

Serena replied in a flabbergasted voice as she looked in Asuka's direction. To which Askua looked back with her usual drowsy eyes.

"From here on. Can't you see this is a monster den with you being the sole human?"

"I, I knew it....you're going to eat me!?"

She shouted in a grievous cry.

"Stripping me of my skin, toying me as a plaything and in the end, I'll become everyone's dinner like the dish Carpaccio!?"

"Ah—, yea.... You've got quite the imagination there....."

In contrast to the surprised Asuka, Sakuma's face turned bright red. She probably imaged that too.

"I did want to drink human blood a while ago but no one here has such hobbies like that. But I'll pretend no one heard this"

As she said such, Asuka leaned back on the chair and crossed her leg.

"Lastly, its our "Demon King's" decision that we'll turn to. For the time being, we got what we wanted to hear and there's not much merit in keeping you here at all"

".....!?"

"Whether it be turning you into Carpaccio or immediately expelling you from here, that's not what we actually mean. It's whether you could return home or end up staying here. It'll be best for you to return home but if you wish for it to stay put here, you'll probably never return."

While polishing her nails, Askua basically implied [You'll be useless here]. That hurts Kyosuke's heart, but well, he's sure its just her irritation speaking out instead.

Recently, Asuka had been included in making rounds during the labyrinth

exploration. With Ryuzaki backed by Sakuma, it would become awkward to disobey so its obvious she'll slowly become dissatisfied.

Serena, while squeezing her hands, spoke

"I can be useful.....as well. Because you saved my life...."

"Fuuuun. Then, what can you do?"

"Eeh? Um, etto. That's....."

"N, now now Akai-chan"

As Asuka bullied the troubled Serena, Sakuma bitterly smiled while reprimanding her.

She probably understands Serena's true feeling of wanting to return to her birthplace of the East Kingdom. But to do so alone, its probably impossible in such a vast wasteland. There's the Wilderness Worm in the wasteland and the thing that caused her to be here, the red-winged demon. She probably came to the conclusion after judging her situation, that it'd be best to stay here for a while.

"Serena-san, we'll talk with our leader. And then we, um, whenever we extend the extent of our activity, during that time we'll take Serena-san along and I think we can someday send you back...."

"Y, yes.....! Thank you very much!"

Serena's face finally became cheerful as she stood up.

".....That girl, though they built walls to thwart the invasion of monsters from this side."

Akira mumbled unemotionally. Rin and Kyosuke turned in that direction.

"An army of monster going towards that wall to escort a girl, it's simple if you say it like that but seems unlikely to be that easy...."

"Oh yea, that's right"

Rin also nodded

Kyosuke also came to the same understanding. He's sure the other classmates are also coming to the same conclusion as them too. Probably Serena herself

does not realize the true essence of this situation she's in, as she's firmly gripping her hand and solidifying her will while shouting

"This incompetence Serena! I'll work really hard and give it my all!!"



And after that, as Serena actively participated, a remarkable thing happened. In a bad way.

"T-t-t-t-thank you for waitin—Kyaaaaa!"

She came out carrying food, stumbled and tossed the food. Kyosuke doesn't know how many times he has seen this spectacle. As he half-heartedly watched this happen.

"Dang..... Serena-chan, just dang....."

Rin nervously admired while slurping on pseudo pasta. The pseudo pasta was found on the 11<sup>th</sup> floor as a new ingredient to be harvested. Boiling it produced a spaghetti like flavor and texture. Since its shape and color resembled closely to the original, it became a hit within the classmates as no one wanted to assertively argue about its shape. The person who discovered the pseudo pasta, Kagoi(gargoyle), still eats it.

Incidentally, as they fought the Wilderness Worm a couple of days ago, somehow a large amount of pseudo pasta was harvested. Kyosuke guess there's miracle in this world too. Gofunkawahara muttered『That thing's a female enough that Kyosuke can hear it but not really understand what he meant. Strange things are strange. By the way, the Wilderness worm are not oviparous but rather they breed by viviparous.

Well, enough about the story of pseudo pasta. The problem is Serena. Like Rin said, Serena is just awful.

She is, while currently lowering her head in apology, gathering the broken plate and cleaning the floor. The student are openly irritated at the waste of food in front of them.

Sakuma conveyed the things from Serena to Ryuzaki and now she's going with the flow of being placed the class. And going with the flow, assigned her an

attendance number too. Well, she's basically a transfer student.

Transfer students, in its entirety, are usually pampered at first. Other worldly citizen. Caucasian features. To sum it up, she's a beautiful person who's also a human. Especially among the guys who aggressively and intensely go on the offense.

"Serena-san, this worl—no, humans, how is their livelihood!?"

"Serena-san, isn't fighting with only a spear scary?"

"Serena-san, what's your favorite food? How do you eat the food?"

"Serena-san, where do you live? Or rather what's your LINE?"

And as the monster surrounded her, she became absolutely afraid.

Then again, she did say she's a knight apprentice and could be added as a potential battle power but Ryuzaki flooded Kyosuke's group with request in hope to get her into their team.

But she's too frail.

"If I remember correctly, Serena-san was seriously injured in the 1<sup>st</sup> floor fighting against a horned rabbit, to which she was rushed back upstairs right?"

"It's like another Kyosuke again"

Rin and Akira chatted while Kyosuke smiled bitterly.

By the way, Serena is not the only transfer student. Continuing after student 41 Serena is the Ogre, Zeku, who is also added into the class as number 42. Since he can't speak, he's always with Okuma who interprets for him as he is plentiful with his strength.

Well, it can't be helped if she can't add to the class war potential. She was immediately discharged of being a battle essential member and was rolled into the base essential member.

"She overkilled Kano's kitchen garden with water, and I heard the tomato roots narrowly went bad"

Akira said

"She also helped Kuremori-kun but the repaired rifle spontaneously

discharged and she was driven out, or so I heard”

Rin said

“I heard from Sugiura that she helped by peeling the skin from the potato but peeled only until 3 centimeter of it remained useful”

“Aah— that’s why she’s a waitress”

“But that waitress is like that though.....”

No doubt the cook, Sugiura, is going to fly into rage now. She’s a cheerful girl but she’s not the big-hearted type.

“Uu..... This careless and incompetent Serena, please scold me.....”

Serena placed her hand on the wall as she became crestfallen while slouching.

“With this, Serena is close to entering “Team Useless„ .....

“We’re different, the problem is that she’s really useless”

Akira words, as usual, are as heartless as ever. Kyosuke thought about lecturing him but he seemed to be continuing, so his mouth remained shut.

“I fear that at this rate the class mood will change to ostracizing her.”

“Ostracizing? Driving her out?”

“Yea. She’s a human of this world. At first they were curious, that’s a “human„ , an existence they desired enough to pamper her. But at any rate they’ll become tired, think of her as a hindrance and remember their irritation of her. That’s where we differ, if we didn’t have class with the same class, there would have been few resistance in driving us out too”

While listening to his assumptions, Rin and Kyosuke looked towards Serena’s direction again. She called Sugiura and was pulled into the kitchen, came out with new plate of food and with additional caution to not spill anything. Its good for saying a word of caution, but that was a bit too slow. Better than having food spilt upon.

“And so, the “Useless„ girl is driven out, next would be our turn. She’ll be driven out for wasting food, but for us it’ll be some odd reason along with that line”

“That’s not a good line”

“That’s right. In regards to us and the class”

For a moment, if the class came to the same consensus and decided to drive out some classmates, the atmosphere would deteriorate as they wholeheartedly pursue that course. For those who are useless, they’ll be driven out from the class. Such action would cause a tug of war, produce false accusations and perhaps the class would fall into such a trap. If that happened, even Ryuzaki wouldn’t be able to do anything.

The present state is already a bomb of dissatisfaction. So to speak, Serena might be the fuse that lights the bomb.

“If we revealed the Full Cross true identity, we’ll no longer be called useless”

“That we wouldn’t. Well, I’ll still want to keep it a secret so don’t make such foolish proposal. However, now is also not the best time to do so”

The case of the red-winged demon. This would be the worst timing to reveal the true identity.

Useless

That word is starting to feel heavy in Kyosuke’s heart. If he had not met with Rin by chance, they would have always remained useless then. Compared to how Kogane fell, Rin would have fallen that low, or possibly it could have been Kyosuke himself. If that happened, he wouldn’t be here in this class about now.

“Surely if I can remember correctly.....”

Finally delivering the pasta successfully, Serena made a triumphant pose and smiled while Kyosuke muttered to himself.

Later that day, Akira’s fear came true. That was quite fast of a prediction.

# Chapter 18: Time Bomb

『Haaa—, we're stuck with Kogane this week.....』

It's a sigh of complaint heard very often. Even Kogane understood from listening, that he was shunned. It was just a little while ago but he didn't believe he would fall this far, when considering his previous circumstance.

But of course, just because his treatment fell to the bottom of the earth, doesn't actually mean his ability did as well. Kogane wields a diverse attribute in spirit magic and can still easily devastate any monster. To add to it, he can use a multitude of supporting magic such as 『Wind Barrier』, 『Aqua Heal』, to name a few. If he's put into a party, he can fill in spots as he can moderately use his magic.

However, he can hear everyone giggle while in the midst of his aria.

And frankly, they give off an attitude of refusing recovery magic.

It's like we're back in middle school, as Kogane thought.

How did this happen? It's something he knows. He's paying for his consequences. Reaping what he sowed. And yet, Kogane feels bitter about his current environment. He's strong. He's useful. You guys are no match to me.

Alternatively, he thought of using his maximum powered 『Fire Ball』 to burn them all. He could not put his thoughts into action, as the brakes of good will and the feeling of guilt stopped him. To put it simply, he's fearing of what he'll part with.

Being divided into groups because of Ryuzaki, was hell. Even going labyrinth exploring was hell.

It's like PE lessons all over again. That PE teacher couldn't read the mood and told the students to 『Form a group of twos』. Who would seriously work with him? He would rather, since things became like this, explore the dungeon by himself since it would be the better idea.

Today's hell also ended.

Without speaking a single word to his party member, Kogane returned to the base. The squad leader wrote a small report and went towards the strategy room where Ryuzaki is in.

"Ah, welcome back everyone"

While returning to the base, a blonde girl, while holding a mop, cheerfully greeted them. Kogane became perplexed. Was there such a girl in this class?

The other male students in succession replied 『We're back, Serena-san』『Is it your turn to clean today?』and other words of greetings. Seems that her name is Serena. Ah right, she's the girl who recently came to their base, the 『Transfer Student』 from a different world.

Serena, while using the damp mop and wiping the floor, "bechaa bechaa" , stared in Kogane's direction.

"That's.....An Elf isn't it?"

"Ee,.....A, Aa....."

One of the member of the group, Shimeji (Matango/Living mushroom), stood in front of Kogane while scratching his umbrella like head.

Looks like Serena doesn't know much about Kogane. She must not have been disclosed about Kumosaki's treatment but the entire class has already known about it. Thereafter, Kogane's evaluation of him has become of a "lecher". There's also the matter where he sexually harassed Sakuma too.

"I, became accustomed to everyone's figure already but in spite of that, I still welcome a human-like figure more....."

"Heeey, Serena-san!"

While Serena was smiling, she was scolded by a female voice behind her.

"Don't soak the hallway like that! If you do it like that, everyone will slip! It needs to be smoother!"

"Eh, ah, sor, please forgive me....."

"Seriously....."

It's a short fairy type monster. It's Kikino. While she was pouring complaints onto Serena, she finally noticed the existence of Kogane. 『Ah.....』 she leaked, but immediately glared at him, grabbed Serena's arm and dragged her back into the inner hallway. Serena's hands wildly floundered about while being dragged.

“Oi, Kogane”

Since they've now gone further inside, Shimeji finally spoke to Kogane.

“W, what.....?”

“Don't approach Serena-san from here on out”

His voice was roughly cautious. The other party member carried the same attitude as well.

“Y, yea.....”

He said while nodding.

“Kogane, “

And then the squad leader, Ichiro (Gilman), came back. He called out to Kogane and placed his hands onto Kogane's shoulder.

“W, what?”

“You've been called by the class rep”

“Ryuzaki huh.....”

Is it another boring sermon or something again? Or rather is it about being driven out to explore the outside, is something he greatly would find comfort in. Kogane trudgingly walked towards the Strategy room.



A few days later, the new group assignment sheet has been posted in the dining hall. The students first looked to see where Kogane is placed at, however today he isn't placed in any group at all. Instead, he's placed on『Office Work』together with Harao and Ryuzaki in the Strategy Room. Voices of relief and vexation leaked from both sides among the class. It's quite blatantly a demotion in personnel affairs but they saw that matter as comforting.

In one way it's an excuse but they only mutually grumbled about it, without

letting the content ripen into an argument.

And in a separate location from there, Serena stood at attention and saluted Kyousuke's group.

"Today I am assigned to be part of your team! Inept Serena! Prepared to give it my all! At your service!"

Student number 41. Transfer student Serena has been publicly assigned to team useless.

Kyousuke recalled the conversation he had with Ryuzaki in the Strategy Room yesterday.

"Utsurogi.... Serena's terrible....."

He covered his face with both his hands and soon after, took out reports from the base personnel.

『While mopping the floor, she spreads even more dirt – Kikino』『I think Serena-san is not fitted for sewing. She took 5 hours to thread a needle –Kumosaki』



『With

Serena-san here, my work load increased twice –Sugiura』『Please go visit Gordon the 2<sup>nd</sup>'s gravesite –Kano』<sup>1</sup> And so on. You could say that Serena's the perpetrator in all cases.

Incidentally, from looking at the written reports, both Kumosaki and Kikino has been relieved of their duty as exploration members. They're placed as clothing related jobs and base cleaning jobs respectively. Being ex members of Kogane's group, its somewhat better than being placed into an exploration party while being ashamed.

It became as clear as day with Serena's clumsiness and recently the entire base personnel seems fed up. Well, the exploration members' reception of her seems, as usual, like nothing bad. However, when asked which group to take her along, they began pointing out disapproval. She's baggage as a front-line personnel since she'll need to be taken back to the base with just a single tackle from a horned rabbit.

Ryuzaki's worn out face is exactly like a convenience store's manager, who's worried about scheduling part timers' shift. Of course, there's always a right person for the right job. Ryuzaki, having understood that, thought of assigning her to where she thought she'll excel at. And so he proceeded into interviewing her, asking what she think she specialize in. The outcome:

"I can do everything equally!"

She replied brimming with confidence.

"Saying she can do anything at any level and yet, it's still hopeless....."

How and why was that Serena even selected as an investigation member in the first place? The enigma only intensifies further.

And with that said and done, her responsibility fell to Kyousuke's "Team Useless" group. So it shall be. Since the Wilderness Worm's appearance, their pretext of going out of the dungeon has dissolved. If she were to go explore the dungeon's shallow area to gather shabby items, even then the base personnel could just follow her in rotation. Well, something like that.

Ryuzaki, initially didn't want to increase Kyousuke's burden, finally came to that conclusion. Thus accomplishing the open introduction of Serena entering the useless side.

In related news, the students' discussion did not revolve around Kogane's assignment alone, but included Kyousuke's proposal too. After consulting with

Ryuzaki about the job, Kyousuke recommended Kogane for it. As a result, there'd be no one neglecting him and he can possibly do his job with enthusiasm.

"Eetone, I'm Rin! Himemizu Rin yo! This here is Utsurogi Kyousuke-kun and Hino Akira-kun"

Without losing to Serena's energetic introduction, Rin introduced herself and the group with greater vigor. Serena, staring blankly, tilted her head sideways.

"Kyousuke.....?"

"Ah, is it an odd name?"

"Ah, no..... odd things are odd but his name is the same as my younger brother....."

"Eeh! Similar to your younger bro! That's interesting!!"

Identical name? To himself?

Hearing those words, Kyousuke glimpsed towards Akira. He had no particular reaction to this.

Serena's brother is a Kyousuke. Although it's a bit strange, this world could also have that as a universal name as well. However, that's a bit odd so to speak.

Speaking of which, they really don't understand much of this world and no one has asked anything informational yet from her. Seems like in regards to the classmates, she's viewed more of as "Transfer Student Serena" rather than "This world's clue". At first, Sakuma questioned Serena but stopped earlier than scheduled, with her reasoning being that she couldn't exert anymore pressure.

"Alrighty, then guys! Today we'll be shelling the shrimps"

As breakfast was over, many of the students formed their groups and left to begin their hunt. Meanwhile, Sugiura brought out the bowls filled with shrimp. Kyousuke knew why she's so hyped. She's giving off the feeling of "secretly" eating the husk again.

"I am worried about Serena-san, but well, since she's together with Utsurogi-

kun's group it'll be fine. Thanks a bunch—“

Saying so, her hands nimbly moved while she returned back to the kitchen.

“I see now. An Amikiri shrimp”

While picking one shrimp up, Serena nods her head. Kyousuke asked

“Amikiri shrimp?”

“It’s a crustacean type monster often found living near sources of water. This one’s a youngling. If it grows into an adult, it’ll grow wings, would be able to fly momentarily and would look for other sources of water in order to produce eggs. Since they often cut away fishermen’s nets, they’ve been a hassle for the fishing industries officials.”

“In our hometown, “Amikiri” are known to be called Youkai. There’s also a pun together about shrimps and nets. It’s a crustacean youkai that has scissors-like hands.”

“Ho~.....”

Akira supplemented their information as Rin dazed in admiration. However, Kyousuke knew. Akira knew such miscellaneous information partly because of watching SFX show<sup>2</sup>. Knowing that Amikiri’s name is a minor youkai, Akira most likely got that while watching the sfx tv programs and also searched up the joke as a result of it. (Think Kamen Rider/ Power rangers)write reference

“You’re quite knowledgeable with the Wilderness Worm too; however, are monsters abilities such common knowledge?”

Kyousuke asked while peeling the husk off.

“E, ahh, no. I am..... I have no other redeeming features beside classroom lectures”

Serena covered her face slightly in embarrassment. Her method of peeling is inelegant, with her first attempt making the shrimp’s body looking like a splat from a roadkill. Currently, Rin is moderately lending her hand in assistance.

“I turned 16 as of this year. However, when Father was around this age, he was the best magician. Mother also excelled in the sword and she was a knight capable of destroying a large army in one swing.”

"With one, one swing.....large army....?"

"If it's a distinguished knight like that, then of course that amount is nothing. And yet, I can't even do that....."

By any possibility, is the information they're listening to, something akin to being important?

Kyousuke and the rest have yet to fully understand the wasteland. But if magic exists in this world, then of course knights ought to too. It's highly probable that this is like the typical fantasy world. Just imaging it being like in the games and manga, then it's quite possible that someone could easily brush off hundreds of soldiers with their "excessive" battle prowess.

The students all changed into monsters, maybe even reincarnated. Thanks to that, they didn't know how they succeeded in survival when they barely knew the wastelands like knowing their left and right. Many students became unconsciously aware that they obtained more body prowess. Yet is it possible that the people of this world even exceed in that?

"I see now"

Akira nodded while Kyousuke remained silent.

"It's to my understanding that you felt ashamed of that, so you dedicated yourself to your studies"

"Yes. I even thought to volunteer for the west investigation party.....But it was useless. I can't even peel a single shrimp....."

Downhearted, Serena looked at her handiwork, where the figure of the Amikiri Shrimp's body became grotesquely disfigured. Her clumsiness has no bounds.

"That ain't true Serena-san!"

"B, but Utsurogi-kun! This! I can't even peel the husk! Rather, this isn't even a husk anymore! More like I tore it apart!"

"If you say it like that, look at Akira. Even if he lower his output, he still ends up grilling the shrimp"

"Its true! The extra fat that drips down is soo delicious!"

“.....”

Akira being a Wisp, can't hold anything closer than 5 centimeters to his body. On top of which he has a handy method where he can mimic peeling the shrimp. By raising the temperature, just like that the shrimp becomes grilled over an open fire. He always puts up airs of being the cool type even when making a mistake, Rin went as far as to mutter 『Ooh.....』。

“Fuun. Even though I'm a Wisp, it was a mistake to put me into doing this. That's Ryuzaki and Sugiura's fault.”

Akira, making excuses, *Peh* expels the grilled shrimp for his body. *Paa* as Rin catches it and it begins to fizzle for digestion. Serena's interest bloomed as she observed the action.

“May I ask another question?”

“Hm—? Wha—at—is it?”

“As far as I know, these several, no. I've never thought that a great variety of monsters would live in unity together. Even more, that they could speak the human language.....”

Aah, Kyousuke knew it'd come to that.

Judging from the goblins at the heavy cruiser to the skeleton in the dungeon, it seems that common monsters tend to stick to their own brethren, or even species, and tend to gather. But it seems mainstream to act independently. In Kyousuke's community, the monsters living in symbiosis seems to be too strange of a thing.

“It's not just monsters alone. There's also seems to be an elf here too”

“Aah, that's.....”

“Kyousuke”

Akira restrained Kyousuke from speaking. He carelessly didn't take in consideration of what he was going to say. He thought it was something like that. Sure, it may be a problem without Ryuzaki's permission if he carelessly chatters about, but not saying anything would be even more insincere.

“We can't be really detailed but we know nothing about this world at all”

“Nothing at all?”

Rin cutting in as Serena tilts her head.

“Yup. *Fwoosh* and all of a sudden we became aware and could speak words to each other. That’s why we lived in unity together. But because we don’t know anything about this world, you came alone and we wanted to ask you a lot of things”

“I see.....”

You’d think that coming from a different world and explaining how they were former humans would be simple, but it’s rather complicated. Compared to that, Rin’s explanation is better so to speak.

They’ve yet to hear anything detailed so far. How the humans lived, where they lived, how powerful they are and other things. Will there be land to accept Kyousuke and the others. And if possible, Kyousuke would like to ask the younger brother Kyousuke questions too.

However, being monsters, Kyousuke hesitated as it would be unnatural to investigate too deep.

Serena’s a human. They are monster. If he were to not be reserved, once she hears about such a thing then it wouldn’t be strange if it stirred unnecessary suspicion.

Well, looking at her personality, this seem to be a needless anxiety.

“Ah, there you are! Ooooi, Utsurogi, Hinoo—“

They turned their heads in the direction where the voice was coming from.

It the twins, Ichirou(Gilman) and Shiro(Mermaid), with the voice coming from the older brother.

“We’re told to help with moving Kuremori’s materials”

“Got it. Let’s go Akira”

“Ah geez. It’s all odd jobs....”

Akira sighed as he left together with Kyousuke.

“We’ll be leaving Serana-san to you Himemizu”

"Leave it to mee—!"

"Ah, Utsurogi-san!"

Serena called out as Kyousuke was about to leave the dining hall.

"Does Utsurogi's "Kyou" is the same resound and "suke" having a similar meaning of help?"

"Nope, "Kyo" meaning respectfully "Suke" meaning mediating but...."

"Ah, is that so! It's different by just that!"

Serena wide smile covered her face. However, Kyousuke, Rin and Akira felt that the meaning of the words she spoke was different.

Her Kyousuke's name, "響丞"<sup>3</sup> character had a different meaning. Serena's younger brother's godparents are Japanese natives.

She, along with the things from the heavy cruiser, are quite likely a link to this world.

Kyousuke nodded simultaneously with Akira, as they walked out the dining hall.



"What'd you think about that "Kyousuke" Akira?"

Kyousuke asked as the words itself is caught in a strange sense.

"Probably the same thing as you. "Her" hometown, if there is a Japanese person or rather if they existed"

"Maybe it's those heavy cruiser personnel?"

"That's also a possibility. Even more so the reason why we shouldn't rush to get rid of her."

The two were carrying a large scrap of iron from the lower dungeon floor. It seems like it's the remains of a metalloid golem from the 14<sup>th</sup> floor. If they were to process it, then, so to speak, it could likely repair the machine guns. It could also be recycled for ammunition, so this is a lucky break since it's considerably advancing their goals.

Kyousuke and Akira continued pushing the large cart. If they were to

combine, then it'd be easier but nonetheless they continued.

"Speaking of which, Akira about the fusion"

"Aah, what about it"

"Not talking about being fully in Full Cross, but it won't be no trouble just fusing with Himemizu right?"

"....."

Akira sunk into silence.

".....Don't tell me you didn't realize that Akira?"

".....It's not that. Sure your reasoning is sound but"

"So that means you didn't realize then"

Generally, SFX hero (super hero) would often transform their form as a standard. By conventional standards too, depending on the time and place, they would then change into their strongest form so by no means is that a bad influence. Akira, by default, is a thoughtful person; however, half of thoughts have been contaminated by Bandai<sup>4</sup> so he'd occasionally be guilty of careless thinking.

"Well, Washio and the other saw during that time with Full Cross being engaged mid battle. They might have heard Himemizu's voice too, so if words were to leak out about me and Himemizu being capable of fusing, then people would have absurd imagination."

"A, aah. True. I remember saying something like that"

"Right"

They finally brought the large iron scrap into Kuremori's workshop.

The air in the room stank awfully due to the oil. Kyousuke attempted to pinch his nose, only to end up thrusting his finger, lodging it inside his nostril. He forgot he had no nose. Just like his eyes, he became accustomed to that feeling.

Kuremori is located in the middle of the room, surrounded by piles of junk and was inspecting the rifles. Turning his head to see them, he pointed to a

corner of the room. Implying to leave it there.

“Seriously, what kind of attitude is that when we brought it all the way here”

Akira muttered his complaint.

“Calm down Akira.”

Plastered on the wall were various blueprints. It's not entirely just the rifles and machine guns. There's a lot of large scale things there too. Seems like when Kyousuke was called in yesterday by Ryuzaki, it was about this. As Kyousuke and Akira was about to leave the workshop, he called out

“Keep at it Kuremori. Seems like you're in a high spirit”

“.....”

Kuremori glanced towards him and waved his right hand in response. His unsociability rivals even Akira.

“Kyousuke, I have a relative understanding of what you're thinking, but I'm not that introverted”

“Nah, you're about the same”

They frivolously talked while walking through the corridor.

They left Rin with Serena. Since it's just peeling shrimp, no problem should come out from that but the possibility still exists. A portion of the students have already begun to gradually shun Serena. Since knowing she's connected to new information, they'd have to avoid it from progressing further. It's also essential information for Ryuzaki.

Kyousuke continued onward, while thinking of such things.

『Oi, stop screwing around!』

They heard a scream coming from the direction of the dining hall.

“Is that Harui's voice?”

Harui Yuka, one of the queen's follower. Kyousuke muttered to himself with Akira nodding in agreement.

“I have a bad feeling. Let's hurry”

The two slipped through the crowd that gathered in the dining hall. Though many have already left to explore, there was still a number of other students who became curious and gathered about. Just looking at things now, its what Kyousuke initially thought would happen, where Harui stood in front of Serena with a menacing look.

Behind Harui is Kikino and Kumosaki. Next to Serena is Rin, who seems to be protecting her. In Kumosaki's hand is a torn sailor uniform. She's in charge of sewing clothes, where she painstakingly measures each individual students size to create their "uniform". That has been torn.

"C, calm down Yuka-chan. Serena-chan didn't do that with any ill intent at all....."

"Even without any ill intent, nothing good came out of it!? Hasn't she been troublesome the moment she came here!"

Harui's anger is like a raging fire. Well, it isn't strange that a student's gradual anger hasn't blown up yet. Specifically, the girls since they could barely tolerate the Serena like the boys.

This dining hall also serves as Kumosaki's workshop. Serena, while trying to help Kumosaki with her production, accidentally tore the work mid-completion. That caused Harui's anger to explode, or so Kyousuke thought. Well, Kyousuke thought it's probably a good chance they've been waiting for something like this.

"O, Oi Harui..... Forgive her, Serena-san hasn't even been here that long....."

A single man stepped forward, Shimeji the mushroom head, as he timidly faced Harui's raging anger.

"You bastards, it's cause of your attitude like that, causing things to escalated this far! How has this person even been helpful so far!"

At Harui's word, the class became rustled. That's a bad sign. However, Rin continued protecting Serena with resolution.

"If it's being useless, then we're also the same, Yuka-chan"

"Haa!? You....."

As she was about to continue, she became silent. Right, she knew that the girl, Rin, is "Useless" as well.

She knows but wouldn't dare say so. It's probably because Akai forbade saying such words. Rin played such underhanded offense. Cleverly spoken too. Harui, upon understanding that, would now have to handle Rin together with Serena, if classifying them as useless, to which she couldn't skillfully sort her feelings.

"That's right Harui. We're also useless too then"

Kyousuke said, shoveling through the thick crowd to get through and stood in front.

"Y, you're not as useless as her.....right?"

"Don't try and pull the class feet under their spot now"

Even if he said so, Kyousuke thought that he's shamelessly doing exactly that.

What currently rules the class is the "mood". Neither Ryuzaki or Kogane. Quite possibly, what happened to the surrounding is due to what's known as "peer pressure". If someone lightly pushes another person's back, it'll open like a dam with streams of opinion flowing. Though it's an uphill battle against it, they can't help but fight it.

The current state. Everyone present in the class, Harui, Serena and even Kyousuke's group just observed. It's probable that after this event, the class "mood" would change into something strange again. That's why Kyousuke can't be defeated now. He existed in the lowest class caste but has the confidence to assert his dominance in defying against Harui, who exist in the upper class caste.

"I was just on my way here but Harui, was that uniform meant to be worn by you?"

"T, that's right! This, she ....."

"Then you still have lingering affection for your high school life right"

Kyousuke understood that since everyone seriously thought about returning to their former world, it one of the root causes of the class' mood to

deteriorate.

But everyone reminisced about their high school life, or rather their "Human" life.

For that reason, the human Serena became a "Transfer Student" and even going as far as obtaining an attendance number.

"Utsurogi, what you're saying....."

"Serena's birthplace, the East Kingdom, perhaps a "Japanese" person might exist there"

Kyousuke's word were like a domino, causing a chain reaction within the class.

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1) Remember the tomato/potato? Gordon the 1<sup>st</sup> became minestrone soup! Gordon the 2<sup>nd</sup>.....

2) Remember, Akira loves Super Sentai/Kamen Rider(Power Rangers/Masked Rider). They fight evil monsters

3) The younger brother name could actually mean a call for help/a.k.a SOS

4) Bandai is the company that created well know shows, like Super Sentai(Power Rangers)

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<https://soojiki.wordpress.com/2016/12/12/episode-18-time-bomb/>

# Chapter 19: Class Meeting in a Different World #2

In response to Kyousuke's words, the class started buzzing. While not even half of his classmates was here, it still seemed to have brought quite a shock. After all, his classmates also had some attachments to the former world. Kyousuke looked at Harui, Harui returned a glare.

Against Kyousuke, Harui was unable to say anything. When Kyousuke attempted to speak again, one of the students raised their hand.

"Ah, can I have a few words?"

Uozumi Sakeichiro. A male student who was a gillman and the leader of one of the exploration teams.

Kyousuke and Harui broke off their glares for a moment and looked at him.

"Regarding Selena-san's hometown having Japanese people in it, my opinion is pretty much the same as Utsurogi. But I feel that whether Selena-san is useful at the moment or not is a different matter all together."

"Please wait a minute anii."

From the side of Sakeichiro, his twin sister Masuyo pulled his fin.

"But then what shall we do about her? We can't exactly leave things as they are right now, can we?"

"Ah no, yeah. That's right, but.... No, in the first place, it's necessary to have Selena-san do some kind of suitable job, is there any good idea..."

The younger sister of Uozumi brother-sister pair was still as dominant as ever. However, their interactions together with the previous exchange of Kyousuke and Harui posed various questions to their other classmates. It seemed that the students finally remembered the incompatibility of taking foreign matter like Selena into the group. Kyousuke lightly sighed as he heard their talks.

"Utsurogi-kun, thanks for the good work."

"Ah, yeah. Himemizu too."

Kyousuke and Rin exchanged words with each other, but the grim face of

Harui had yet to be solved.

“Oi, the two of you are quite rude to have ignored me huh?”

“Ah, yeah. That’s right...”

Kyousuke scratched his head. Well, although they managed to change the «Selena exclusion» mood slightly, the fact remained that she tore the uniform tailored for Harui. When Kyousuke looked at Selena, she timidly came out in front and \*pekorī\* lowered her head.

“I’m sorry.... Although it’s still inexcusable even if I apologize.... I’m sorry...”

“Tsk.”

Harui clicked her tongue and looked away.

“So? What are you going to do?”

“Including that, let’s have a discussion with the class.”

Kyousuke said, giving a glance to the noisy onlooking students.

Probably like Uozumi older brother, the students should now be calm enough to look at the present situation properly. They needed to talk to reunite opinions within the class. At the moment, Ryuzaki’s burden was too much, and Ryuzaki was also honest, it was unthinkable for him to be able to handle all situations correctly.

There was also the treatment of Selena as well.

Kyousuke gazed at Selena, who seemed to be completely depressed. Even just listening for a bit, her knowledge was a big deal. Probably, it wasn’t only Kyousuke who exchanged words with her and touched that knowledge. If they pulled out some more, it would surely help. There must be students who thought so as well.

“Ooi, Utsurogi!”

From behind, Uozumi older brother called out, so Kyousuke turned around.

“I’m gonna go propose to Ryuzaki to abort tomorrow exploration and have a class meeting, but is there anything you want to say?”

“No, nothing in particular!”

Kyousuke said waving his hand lightly. Then, Uozumi group \*zoro zoro\* left the dining room. Finally, Kyousuke gave a sigh.

“...Fuu.”

“Kyousuke! You are really! Really, you!” [Notes]

“Yo Akira, thanks for the good job!”

“Good grief...!”

Swelling greatly, the wisp Akira got angry at Kyousuke. This was also the usual.

Kumosaki group, while staying a little distance away and tried not to look at Selena began to devote themselves to their work again. Harui also left the dining room. And again, «*Team · Useless*» was all that left in the surroundings.

“Wh—what will become of me now...?”

“To be honest, I don’t know. It may be better from now on or it may get worse. That will be discussed in the class meeting tomorrow.”

Akira while calming his mind as much as possible, said with a slightly trembling voice.

“Perhaps, your treatment would be a little unmanageable, but we will face it directly. You’re a valuable source of information for us after all.”

“Valuable source of information ... is it?”

“I told you earlier, but we know nothing about this world at all.”

As for the whole class, they would have to face this situation soon. The existences of the «*Red Winged Devil*» and wilderness worms made it impossible to keep this base safe. They wouldn’t be able to keep living here peacefully forever.

And there was no knowing if there would be anything else to rely on either. However, in that sense, the heavy cruiser in the wasteland and Selena were the few clues to learn about this world.

“For example, what is the pattern of getting worse?”

“...as we’re going to head for the eastern kingdom in the future...”

Kyousuke thought, putting a hand on his chin.

“Because we are a monster legion, we may be attacked. At that time, we’ll make Selena-san a hostage?”

“Hiiie...”

Selena involuntarily gasped.

Anyway, about the class meeting. As Ryuzaki was reaching his limits, it could be said to be a hopeful proposal. He prayed that the class's direction for different world life would become a little bit more clear after this meeting.

And so, the next day, the 2<sup>nd</sup> different world class meeting was held. With Ryuzaki as the chairman. The venue was the dining room.

The majority attended the meeting, but some of the students were absent. Kogane and Inugami. There was also no Harao. Originally Selena and Zeku were also scheduled to attend, but since the agenda was about the future policy of the class and Selena herself so at the time of the meeting she was to be taken out of the dining room.

Naturally Kyousuke group also attended. Although they gathered in a corner, since Sakuma who was sitting next to Ryuzaki waved her hands, they waved back. Next to her, Akai was sitting there, bored.

"This meeting is being held by the proposal of Uozumi and the others. I am very thankful that you've suggested for everyone to have their says in our future directions."

There was no hesitation in the words of Ryuzaki who was speaking from the temporary chairman's seat. As expected, he was truly accustomed to being a chairman.

"Well. So then, it's the theme of today's agenda. Asuka."

"Hmm..."

Akai, with a bored look cut her finger and began forming characters in the air with her blood.

Firmly in Japanese, 『Future class policy』 and 『Selena's treatment』 were written. Ryuzaki continued speaking, pointing at it.

"These are two of them. I think it was bad to be ambiguous so far. Yesterday, Utsurogi gave us information that «*there are Japanese in Selena-san's country*». I think most of the students who were not there must have heard of it by hearsay as well."

Ryuzaki looked around the class.

“I would like to hear everyone’s honest opinions. I want to return to the former world. How many people wants to return to human beings?”

In response to those words, the class started buzzing. Everyone had their own thoughts, but never once shared it. They hesitated to put it in words and discussions, simply choosing to avert their eyes from reality.

“Before that, Ryuzaki...”

Uozumi older brother raised his hand and said.

“I’d like to hear about the Japanese people who are in Selena-san’s hometown.”

“Ah, sorry.”

Ryuzaki turned over the documents and started talking again.

“Although this need to be confirmed with the person themself, but Selena-san has a brother. His name is Kyousuke, with the meaning of «echo» and «help». In other words, there are kanji characters here. Selena-san’s name doesn’t have this.”

A commotion spread among the class.

“So, when I asked in more detail, it seems that Selena-san’s name followed her mother’s while her brother was named according to the form of her father’s home country.”

In other words, it was highly likely that her father was Japanese. In addition as a story heard from Selena, Ryuzaki cited that her father’s appearance was black-eyed and black-haired. It could almost be said to be definite when you got up to here.

“Selena-san’s father is probably a Japanese. It seems that he is now busy flying around the world. However, if you head for Selena-san’s country, there may be hints to return to the former world. It seems like so. How is it?”  
“To be honest, whichever is fine.”

While the noisy discussion was going on, it was Gofunkawahara who first raised his hand.

Okumura who sat beside him also nodded with his arms folded.

“Even if I return to the former world, my older sister isn’t there anymore. If we can return then we return, but if it’s impossible then that’s also fine. It’s not bad to live here in this world as well.”

“I am of the same opinion debuu.”

Listening to the words of those two, Rin explained to Kyousuke 『Gofunkawahara-kun, his parents passed away early in an accident』. And so Gofunkawahara who had just lost his only older sister didn’t have much reason to return to the former world. Okumura was similar as well. In order to fulfill the last wish of Gofunkawahara’s older sister, he would live with all his might. Whether it was this world or that world didn’t matter at all.

“I am the same.”

Still tinkering with her nails, Akai said. The blood characters emerging in the air read 『Whichever is fine 3 votes』.

Several students then followed suit and raised their hands to 『Whichever is fine』. Kyousuke quietly asked Rin.

“Himemizu, which side are you?”

“I want to go home. It’s been decided.”

Rin’s voice was a bit discouraged.

Certainly, she wanted to return to the former world, there was a definite reason. It wasn’t just about being an Ace Sprinter. Although not saying it out loud, her family environment was good, as expected she had to have quite a lot of lingering feelings.

“I see. That’s right.”

“The pudding I was eating is in the fridge...! It may be thrown away...!”

“Let’s give it up.”

As much as the half-eaten pudding, you could just feel the greedy gluttony of Himemizu Rin.

“I am of course desperate to go home, but I also have my place as Kyousuke’s support.”

“Don’t mind such a thing. I am also going home.”

As the opinion 『Whichever is fine』 was increasing in number, there was

another student who raised their hand.

“I will go home.”

Who is the one that wants to go home? How will things progress from here on? Will they decide to go home or remain here as powerful monsters? Look forward to it!

“I will go home.”

It was Kensaki Megumi. A kendo girl and the Oni of the Public Morals Committee. She was a headless female knight, the head which was put on the table spoke clearly.

“I am following the directions of Ryuzaki because he made a speech that he will return to the former world. When I wondered if my life in the former world was good or not, well, to be honest, I was dissatisfied.... Still, it’s a lot better than spending time lazily in this unknown world.”

And while raising her head *『It's inconvenient!』*, she shouted. Kensaki’s opinion was probably almost the same as that of many of her classmates. It had already been more than three weeks since they became non-humans. Though they had quickly gotten used to their bodies, it wasn’t very comfortable to live your life cooped up inside the dungeon. *Will we have to continue living this way forever?* There was always that kind of thoughts.

“Me too, I can’t even take care of my nails.”

Harui also stood up complaining.

“Any other guy who wants to go home?”

When asked by Ryuzaki, there were hands raised up here and there in the class. Among them was Sakuma. She also seemed to be frustrated because she could not touch her favorite books ever since coming to this world. Rin and Akira could not raise their hands but asserted themselves in their own way, Kyousuke followed suit as well.

In line with Ryuzaki's count, the blood characters drawn by Akai also changed. 『Whichever is fine』 was 8, 『I want to go home』 was 23. Three people were absent, and five people remained even if you excluded Ryuzaki who didn't raise his hand.

"...Kuremori and everyone, you don't want to go home?"

Ryuzaki asked Kuremori who didn't raise his hand at all.

"...I can't say for sure. It's on hold."

Other students nodded one after another.

"M-me too.... It may be a little unpleasant if this power is lost..."

Hanazono who was in charge of the home garden murmured in a small voice. Ryuzaki was silent for a moment but only briefly answered 『Really』.

"We cannot decide this by majority vote. If there is someone who does not want to return, I want to respect that opinion. However..."

Then Ryuzaki looked around the class.

"However, it's now the time for the class to come together and set a goal. I think that we should leave this dungeon first. I believe there is no one among us who would want to live here forever."

To Ryuzaki's words, the class started making noises again. His opinion was like this.

The reddish wasteland spreading outside the labyrinth was too harsh as a habitat. Whether they were returning to the former world or living in this world, they should move to a better location. For that, they would first go east and come in contact with the people of Selena's country.

The larvae of wilderness worms had also been confirmed on the 11<sup>th</sup> underground floor. It was uncertain when this dungeon itself would collapse due to attacks of different type of monsters such as worms.

"So, it's about the way to cross this wasteland as safe as possible.... Kuremori."

"...Ou."

Kuremori who was sitting in a corner of the dining room stood up and went to

the front. Holding a large paper in his hand, Kuremori gave it to Sakuma. Sakuma then used magic to spread the paper and set it up in the air. It looked like a drawing of some kind of big ship.

Even though the surrounding voices became big, Kyousuke had already known from consulting with Ryuzaki.

"Kuremori has suggested to repair the decaying heavy cruiser in the wasteland and turn it into a land-warship. As of yesterday, the goods and materials that the exploration teams have been tasked to find are mostly for that purpose. Well, there are still various problems, but in the end Kuremori concluded that it's *not technically impossible*. Currently Gofunkawahara is negotiating with the boss of the goblins who are living in that heavy cruiser."

The gloomy Kuremori proudly stucked out his chest a little.

Ryuzaki knew that Kyousuke had been playing social games that personified battleships while he was still a human. So he asked for help with drawing up the documents, but in the end, Kyousuke didn't know the differences between a heavy cruiser and a light cruiser. So in order to pass the problem to someone else, he recommended Kogane who was being the excluded for the job. Even Ryuzaki was worried whether to call Kogane or not, but Kyousuke had recommended after all so he ended up becoming the underwriter himself.

The unexpected proposal to renovate the heavy cruiser to a land-warship naturally caused a ripple in the class. However with the racial ability of Kuremori the Gremlin, it was possible to accomplish if they could secure the necessary materials. Kuremori's reliability was high as he had previously revived the water facility of the labyrinth.

"Also, there's a home garden properly set up on the deck. Although it will become shared rooms, we should be able to allocate private rooms. Well, I think that the living environment will be better than now."

"But, Ryuzaki..."

Folding her arms, Kensaki gave a difficult voice.

"Is that land-warship going to Selena's country? They will certainly be wary of it."

"That is included in the next agenda."

Ryuzaki smiled bitterly and returned the drawing of the land-warship to Kuremori. Kuremori then rolled up the drawing and unsteadily returned to his seat.

The atmosphere of the class was by no mean bad. Probably it was the impact of the land-warship presented by Ryuzaki. With that, the «*future*» that had been fuzzy until now became noticeably more definite. Ryuzaki had been unsure at the time when he decided to keep the information about the warship a secret, but then it seemed like a good decision to publish it at this meeting.

Finally, the next agenda was on the treatment of Selena. With all the students firmly watching Ryuzaki, the class meeting shifted to the next topic.

Kogane eventually didn't participate in the class meeting. Well, the reason was simply «*it's hard to stay*». Although Ryuzaki told him to participate without minding it, Kogane just couldn't bring up that kind of courage. As a result, he was then plagued with boredom and was hanging around the base.

Kogane was glad for the new job that Ryuzaki had left him. Even after about a month, things like his favorite knowledge had hardly rusted, so Kogane had continued to write down all he knew about cruisers and battleships on the papers prepared by Ryuzaki all day.

However, he still couldn't feel like showing his face in the class meeting.

As Kogane walked around the corridors, he found a girl who was wandering the corridors in boredom just like him.

“Ah...”

“Oh...?”

When the girl turned around, she smiled toward Kogane.

“Hello, Kogane-san. You're not attending the meeting?”

“Ah, umm.... Yeah.”

Kogane scratched his head and looked away awkwardly.

It was Selena. The transfer student. He was thankful that she called out, but the boy students such as Kinogasa struck the nail on the head with a warning 『Keep away』. [Notes] Although there was no need to worry about it since they were in the meeting at the moment, Kogane who had completely reverted to

his bullied mentality couldn't think of that idea and was as expected unable to calm down.

"Because I am hated..."

"Ahh, I heard. You seem to have really done it."

Selena put her hands on her hips and nodded *\*un un\**. Kogane looked down.  
*What, did someone tell her about it?*

"I know only half the story since it's through hearsay. But, yeah. That's no good, you know? Doing such a thing."

"How far have you heard...?"

"Up to the part where you tried to sell out Kumosaki-san and Washio-san in order to save yourself..."

*Isn't that the whole story then?* Kogane felt like running away more and more.

"...You must despise me, don't you?"

*\*Bosori\** he muttered. *Why did I say such a thing?* Kogane was increasingly disgusted with himself. *Whether it is affirmed or denied, only unpleasant feelings would remain.*

But Selena put a hand on her chin and said, tilting her head.

"Since you're aware that you did something bad enough to be despised, have you properly apologized?"

"...Eh?"

"Kinogasa-san was saying. That guy never apologizes for what he did."

Kogane raised his face at once. *Apology. That's right. I didn't do it.*

"If you do bad things, you need to reflect on it and apologize. That much is obvious. I am a human, Kogane-san is an elf while everyone else are dragon-kin or skeleton, but still words are coming through so there is no different at all, is there?"

"Y-yeah..."

"Well, even if you apologize, there are still things that can not be recovered..."

Selena suddenly lost the light in her eyes and looked up at the ceiling while leaning against the wall. She was a girl whose emotional changes were extreme.

He certainly hadn't apologized. Not to anyone in the class. Because Ryuzaki group talked to him with an unchanging attitude, he didn't notice it. And yet, expecting that everyone would treat him as usual was too much of a good story.  
*But, even if I apologize, will I really be forgiven?*  
*If they won't forgive me, what should I do next?*

What goes around comes around. You reap what you sow. What's done is done, you can't get it back.

The fear of not being forgiven even if he apologized. Kogane knew it for the first time.

"...What if they won't forgive me?"  
"Eh, that's right.... Wh—what should we do..."

Selena's line of sight wandered. *Well, you don't know. Of course.* However, with the natural choice of [apologizing], Kogane's feelings cleared up a little. *First of all, Washio —— is scary, so should I apologize to Ryuzaki and Kyousuke group. But, I am scared of Akira when apologizing to Kyousuke. Also, I have to lower my head to Sakuma, Kumosaki, Rin and the others as well.*

*Can I really apologize?*

It was when Kogane thought so.

"Ahh."

Selena raised a small voice.

Wondering what's wrong, he turned his light of sight and ahead of him, Kogane saw an unfamiliar person.

That's right, it was an unfamiliar face that he had never seen before. When that person noticed Kogane group, he slowly came closer. He was a tall man who dressed in black armor. Since he wasn't wearing a helmet, only his face was visible, but he had dark skin and a well featured face. And on the back, red wings like burning blood were growing.

Red wings.

When he saw it, Kogane finally realized that the man was a foreign enemy.

"Hou. Elf ... no, high elf..."

While looking at Kogane and Selena alternately, the man grinned \*niyari\*.

The idea of talking first floated into Kogane's head. There was a mean of communication with the opponent. But the man in front of him was obviously not a human, unlike Selena. He didn't know the man's purpose for being here. And, according to what he heard, it was probably this man with the red wings who destroyed Selena's troops.

However ignoring Kogane's confusion, the man continued.

"It seems quite an interesting race has been drawn out."

"Eh..."

"Look like I can have some expectations in this case."

"Wh—what are you saying..."

"But for now, let's put you to sleep."

The man —— That is, «*Red Winged Devil*», just as he said, grabbed hold of Kogane's head and vigorously threw him into the wall.

Is Kogane dead or alive! Does the meeting progress smoothly! What is the purpose of the red winged devil! Kyousuke will counter attack!

# Chapter 20: Red Winged Devil

“Gah..., gu, uu...”

Kogane hit the wall and rolled on the floor as it was. The red winged devil turned his line of sight to Selena. Selena didn't falter, she didn't become afraid and instead stared back at the red winged devil directly from the front.

“That investigation team's survivor.... It is quite curious that you wandered in here.”

“Wh—who are you? Wh—what purpose do you have for doing this...”

She couldn't be mistaken. Outside the defensive walls, while going on the reddish wasteland investigation, that devil appeared. The perpetrator who slaughtered magicians and knights in just a few moment and destroyed the investigation team. The strange circumstances here in this place where there existed heteromorphic beings that possessed both intellect and reason with capabilities of speech beyond that of a beast, for Selena was something incomprehensible.

“You're going to be in trouble once everyone notices this. We are not alone. There are over 40 heteromorphic beings here in this labyrinth.”

*This devil knows something.* Selena intuitively realized.

There were over 40 monsters that lived a strange communal life in this labyrinth. Selena knew nothing about them, but even they seemed to not understand themselves well. They didn't have even half of the knowledge on monsters that Selena knew as a matter of course. It was too unnatural for Kinogasa, a kind of living mushroom to not know about the hypnotic effects of spores.

The devil in front of them surely knew something about these unnatural circumstances.

However, whether the devil was friendly to them, that was obviously not the case, looking at what happened to Kogane.

The red winged devil approached slowly.

Given the power of the devil who destroyed the investigation team in just a few moments, Selena's body would be torn apart in a blink of an eye. With her back pushed against the wall, she shrank herself.

At that time, a silver shadow came running soundlessly and jumped at the red winged devil from his flank.

"GURU~O~OU~!!"

"Muu...!?"

It grazed the devil's right arm but he forcibly shook it off. The silver shadow danced in the air before landing lightly on the floor with its 4 feet.

Around 2 meters in total length. It was a silver wolf with beautiful silver mane around its neck. It was one of the monsters who lived in this community. Surely Inugami Hibiki. She remembered that it was a girl of werewolf race. However unlike the wolf that Selena knew of, her flowing coat of hair was beautiful enough to remind you of silver moon. Also, as far as Selena knew, beast-kins should not be able to take on such a perfect «beast» form.

The devil muttered.

"People like you bastard are mixed in. My good mood is spoiled."

"GUU~U~U~U~U...!"

Inugami was exposing hostility toward the devil. He wondered if she came to help but that didn't seem to be the case.

"GOAA~A~A~A~AA~!"

Furthermore, a giant ogre who came running down the corridor in order to back up Inugami punched the devil. The devil calmly caught his fist and muttered.

"The reincarnated ogre I heard in the story ... doesn't seem like it. It is a wild individual."

"GUOOOO~!"

"It seems to be stranger than I thought. I'm looking forward to this."

Immediately after catching the ogre's fist, the devil threw the gigantic figure to the floor with all his might.

“Ze-Zeku-san!”

Zeku quickly stood up and looked at Selena, pointing backward to the corridor. That was the direction of the dining room. He seemed to say to inform Ryuzaki and the others about this situation. Selena looked at Kogane rolling on the floor. As she felt a little hesitant about leaving him, Zeku stood to protect him this time.

Inugami as usual, didn’t seem to care about the situation over here, and repeatedly jumped at the devil. For now, Selena had no choice but to leave this place.

“...I got it. Please!”

Saying so, Selena started running at full speed toward the back of the corridor.

When the meeting finally started to show some cohesion, a roaring shock in the labyrinth echoed to the dining room. The present people exchanged glances.

“What...?”

Ryuzaki let out a puzzled voice. Noises spread throughout the class. Regarding existences that would attack this dungeon, his classmates had some ideas of their own. Wilderness worms, and the red winged devil, also known as a black knight with flaming wings just like that of a devil. With the enemy’s attack, the tension in the class had risen all at once.

“I wonder what.... Is it a worm...”

Rin also spoke a few words.

“I don’t know. It doesn’t seem to be anything good though...”  
“E–everyone! I–it’s serious!”

Right after Kyousuke answered, a girl rushed in to the dining room. It was Selena.

“Selena-san, what’s wrong?”

“Th–that! Red, winged! De–devil...”

With her words, noises in the class got even bigger. Ryuzaki frowned. Sakuma

also anxiously stood up. Even during all this, Akai, while still tinkering with her nails as usual, glanced toward the edge of the dining room, looking for Kyousuke it seemed.

“Ko-Kogane-san has been done in..., now, Inugami-san and Zeku-san...”  
“All right. Let’s go immediately.”

Ryuzaki said that and looked over the whole class.

“For now, we don’t know what that «*Red Winged Devil*» is and what their purpose for coming here, but it certainly doesn’t seem to be a friendly existence. So I think we should intercept it, is there any objections?”

With his words, the entire class fell silent. It seemed that no students was against it.

“OK. Let’s begin our counter attack. All the exploration members are to go to Inugami and the others’ assistance. The base staff wait here. Selena-san too, please stay here.”

“Eh, ah.... Y–yes.”

“Asuka, I want you to protect everyone here. Is that fine?”

“Nn. All right.”

Ryuzaki’s instructions were precise. It was hard to imagine he was the same person who had been rotting away in the corner of the dining room with eyes like dead fishes’ just a week ago. As Ryuzaki had said, the powerful combat group such as Sakuma and Kagoi jumped out of the dining room, their other classmates also noisily followed after them.

It might have been quite a good timing for the attack to have happened during the class meeting. At least, Ryuzaki’s leadership was functioning properly. The will of the class that had been falling apart was then barely in a state of maintaining unity.

All the exploration members were going to intercept the red winged devil, and in the dining room only a handful of base staff, Akai and Selena were left. **Team · Useless**, Kyousuke group waited for the opportunity when every other classmates had already left, also went out of the dining room.

“Eh, uh, are Utsurogi-san and everyone going?”

Selena raised a surprised voice.

“Well, because everyone else is going...”

“We won’t be unreasonable. Well, thanks~.”

Kyousuke and Rin gently waved their hands while Akira left the dining room without saying anything. However, they headed toward a different direction than their other classmates.

“It’s not bad for the red winged devil to appear at this timing.”

Akira said after confirming that no one else was listening.

“That’s right~. Even if we reveal our identity, nothing would be said in particular.”

“Now that the class’ policy has been decided, it would be better for us to show our power rather keeping it hidden.”

“And so, let’s go with Full Cross.”

The words of such an Akira contained a little excitement.

When Kyousuke group went down the stairs leading from the base to the labyrinth area on the 1<sup>st</sup> underground floor, Gofunkawahara was already there waiting with a black armor and the dismantled Chibisuke. It was as fast as it could possibly go. Truly the skilled man, Gofunkawahara.

“Preparation completed. We’re going with Full Cross, right?”

“Ah, I’m relying on you.”

“Leave it to me.”

Gofunkawahara nodded and connected parts for the wings to Kyousuke. When the connection was over, Rin combined with the body, while Akira combined with the wings, then they put the black armor over it. Wearing armor was to prevent Akira’s flames from directly interfering with Rin’s body, damaging her. Because it was a metal armor, it wasn’t insulated, but that was still a lot better than being roasted directly by flames.

The black knight was completed in a few minutes. As named by Akira, **Black Knight · Trinity Full Cross** had assembled. Kyousuke closed and opened both hands to confirm the feeling.

“Ne~e, Utsurogi-kun.”

Rin's words resounded in the head of the combined Kyousuke.

"What?"

"That red winged devil, what is it really?"

"Well."

It was probably a question that everyone had, but of course there was no answer.

"The fact that Kogane has been done in and Inugami is fighting means that it is probably hostile, I only know that much. Afterwards it is about destroying Selena-san's investigation team."

"It's strong, isn't it?"

"There is no mistake there."

Akira also indicated his consent.

"Her mother seems to be strong enough to destroy an army with one swing of a sword. It's unknown whether the investigation team has such strong abilities, but the humans of this world may possibly have fighting capabilities to oppose monsters like us in close quarter combat."

"That investigation team was annihilated, so well, it's strong."

Abilities, purpose, everything was unknown. However it was the same with the Wight King and wilderness worms. If it bore its fangs toward their class, then they had to fight.

"Gofunkawahara, thanks for your help. I'm going ahead."

"It's fine. Well, I'm tidying up quickly."

Gofunkawahara waved his hand, the black knight lightly waved back and turned to the front. Then he kicked the floor, with six flaming wings acting as boosters, his body rapidly accelerated.

"Inugami! Zeku!"

When Ryuzaki group rushed there, the wolf with silver fur coat and the 2

meters tall ogre were being forced into a hard fight against an opponent with human figure. Zeku noticed Ryuzaki group coming and took some distance from the opponent, but Inugami did not stop the threat to the human figure and barely spared them a single glance. Kogane was lying on the floor. His head was bleeding but it seemed that he was still alive.

He knew that Inugami had the ability of beast transformation, but it was unusual for her, a *my pace* delinquent girl to expose this much brutality and hostility toward someone. Not only Ryuzaki, other students were also feeling doubtful, but first they needed to worried about the monster threat in front of them.

Black armor and dark skin. With red wings growing on his back. Although he was much closer to human than themselves, wearing an outfit that exuded both reason and intellect, it was clear that he was hostile and harmful based on his behavior.

The red winged devil recognized the appearance of Ryuzaki group, and a smile formed on his lips. Taking advantage of the momentary gap, Inugami jumped at him, but he received her biting jaws with his right gauntlet.

“Hou, that’s amazing.”

When the red winged devil spoke some understandable words, a commotion ran through the classmates.

“Dragonewt … succubus? All are excellent races.”

Inugami who was biting his right arm was forcibly shaken off. She was thrown to the wall, but adjusting her posture midair she landed firmly on her four feet.

“Inugami-san, don’t be rash...!”

Sakuma ran off and hugged her body. Looking closely, some darkened red stains were visible in someplace on her silver fur.

Inugami raised a low growl toward the red winged devil, baring her fangs. The devil who was being glared at snorted.

“Although it seems that there are unexpectedly a few misses mixed in, it seems to be mostly hits.” [Notes]

“What are you talking about...?”

Ryuzaki took 1 step, 2 steps forward. In place of Sakuma who was a magical type with weak body and Inugami who was riddled with injuries, he advanced to a place where he could attack. Following him, Kagoi the gargoyle and Okumura the orc who boasted of their superior physical strength came out in front.

“Have you not heard? The reason why you have come to this side in such forms...”

“What...”

“Oh well. I have some business in the back. Let me pass through.”

The red winged devil tried to push Ryuzaki away. He grabbed that arm and restrained it.

This man clearly knew the «circumstances» of Ryuzaki and the others' 2<sup>nd</sup> year class 4. Probably more than any of the students on this side. If they didn't go against him, he might take a friendly attitude. However, even more than that, a strong sense of crisis had sprouted in Ryuzaki's consciousness as the class representative.

*The devil in front of us is definitely an «enemy». My classmates were harmed and I will not consider the situation again. There is no knowing what would happen if he was to go through, so I can't let that happen.*

“Stop it. It is regrettable to kill rare races like you.”

“I don't know what you're saying, but I can't let you pass through here...”

“Is that so?”

Right after the devil said so, a dull shock ran across Ryuzaki's entire body. The impact transmitted to his brain, his vision turned red. He heard screams raising in the surroundings. Somehow pulling back his fading consciousness, Ryuzaki realized that his body had been blown away in an instant and hit the wall. To Ryuzaki who was trying to stand up, the devil said 『Hou, sturdy』. Unrest ran through the classmates. Hakuba used recovery magic to heal Zeku who then went out and joined the fight again. When Zeku eyed Okumura, they nodded to each other and at the same time held down the devil. One beat later, Kagoi the gargoyle also followed suit.

Even with three people boasting of their strength, the man's body didn't even

flinch. Sakuma started chanting magic, and next to her, Uozumi younger sister also prepared for attack magic.

“《Evil Flare》!”

“《Maelstrom》!”

The devil thrust Zeku and Okumura's gigantic bodies away, grabbed the neck of Kagoi who remained and raised him up high. Sakuma's flame magic, Uozumi younger sister's water magic hit the robust body of Kagoi one after another.

“Guu...!”

“Ka-Kagoi-kun...!”

The devil tossed Kagoi, who was barely breathing, and as it was closed in on other students at a stretch. Against the overwhelming difference in ability, the students collapsed. Students who tried to barely confront the enemy, such as Kensaki and Uozumi older brother also existed, but they were pushed by the flow of retreating students.

Sakuma covered for Uozumi younger sister who was escaping. The arm of the devil grabbed her white neck this time.

“Sakuma!”

“Saa-chan!”

The black gauntlet *\*giri giri\** strongly tightened her neck. Ryuzaki stood up and went to tackle the devil's back together with Okumura and the others but the devil still didn't budge.

Ryuzaki ground his teeth. *This strength is not the same as the Wight King lurking in the lower part of the dungeon. Somehow, if we do not consider the way to escape, our class may be annihilated.*

*However, where are we supposed to escape to? We don't even know the enemy's objectives?*

While Ryuzaki had yet to gathered his thought, he heard another scream coming from the back of the passage where his other classmates had run to. Wondering what happened this times, he raised his face, there was the figure of a black knight who flew straight through the rows of confused classmates.

“Full Cross...!”

*It's Kyousuke and the others.* Ryuzaki gave a little relieved breath.

“OOOOORYAAAAA———!!”

While Kyousuke and Rin's breaths were perfectly synchronized, the black knight raised his right fist. With the weight of the armor multiplied by the accelerating force of the flaming wings, he unleashed a single blow to the red winged devil. The devil turned his free hand to take the fist but the unleashed fist could not be stopped with just one hand.

Indeed, for the first time, the fist strongly beat down the devil's cheek. Sakuma's body was released and fell with a thud on the floor. The black knight added a pursuit kick to the slightly faltering devil and landed on the floor.

“Th—that guy...!”

“The rumored black knight...!?”

“Isn't it an enemy...?”

The students rustled. *『It's a voice that I've heard somewhere before』* words like that were popping up here and there.

Ryuzaki exchanged looks with Okumura and the others. They also nodded, Okumura looked after Sakuma, Zeku took Kagoi and moved to the back. Ryuzaki headed toward Kogane who had fallen in a place some distance away. The red winged devil wiped blood off his mouth before the unidentified black knight who landed in front of him.

“I see. So some of you have noticed your abilities and advanced to Phase 2.”

“.....”

The black knight did not answer. Possibly, Kyousuke and his group were having a telepathic conversation among themselves.

“It is regrettable to destroy those who have bloomed so far.... It's fine. I will be your opponent.”

Despite saying so, the red winged devil didn't take any stance. He just stepped forward in a steady manner.

On the other hand, the black knight Full Cross took a Jeet Kune Do stance and prepared to intercept the devil.

The two people's eyes flashed and fists of lightning speed crossed.

“(Kyousuke, be careful not to be misled by your opponent’s words.)”

Akira’s warning resounded in his head. Kyousuke silently showed his assent.

There were certainly many points to think about in the opponent’s words. A remark as if he knew the circumstances here. Or, there was even a possibility of him being involved in the transference disturbance itself. However, there was no room for discussion at the moment. For the time being, they had to repel or possibly work hard to capture him.

Kyousuke stood up and looked at the red winged devil, who slowly walked up.

He realized his ability was probably to amplify the power of monsters in contact with himself. Kyousuke was then making full use of its power. The devil in front of him said that state was Phase 2. However...

“(Kyousuke, don’t be deceived, I said.)”

“(Uu, sorry...)”

“(Ahh, scolding from his wife...)”

Kyousuke took a stance and moved to intercept the devil. The red winged devil had a fearless light in his eyes.

The two people’s eyes flashed and fists of lightning speed crossed. Full Cross’s fist, against the devil’s fist, found its mark on his face again. There was surely a response, and with his other fist, he struck the abdomen from above the armor. Cheers were raised from surrounding students. Firmly clenching his fists, he delivered several more attacks toward the devil’s face.

Kyousuke thought it was an unpleasant feeling. It was the same as when he had hit Kogane before.

*However, it is different from that time. I don’t plan to hold back my fist here.*  
When Kyousuke pulled his right fist, one of the six wings that grew on his back stuck to the gauntlet and covered the whole arm in flames.

“Bu~urning!”

Kyousuke made a signal, Rin and Akira synchronized their breaths.

“”Blo~ooww!!””

“.....!!”

A fist clad in flames aiming at the devil’s face from the front was unleashed. The devil wiped his mouth, then took it with his left gauntlet. The arm that was by no means thick emitting absolutely unbelievable power held down Kyousuke’s fist. He tried to pull back his fist but \*pikuri\* it wouldn’t budge an inch, right afterwards, the red winged devil grabbed Full Cross’s right wrist as it was.

“...Kku!”

“That’s quite an interesting way to use it. However...!”

The devil twisted Full Cross’s right arm. Since he had no joints it didn’t hurt that much but his movement was greatly restricted.

“Himemizu~!”

“Uoryaa~!”

From the armored joint, Rin stretched her body and attacked. A sharp blade-shaped tip cut through the devil’s cheeks, but even so the devil showed no sign of faltering, reached to the back of Kyousuke.

“Uu...!?”

The devil grabbed hold of one of the six bone wings in which Akira dwelled. The flames of Akira gained momentum and made a counterattack, but the devil plucked off the bone wing without any trouble at all. The bones what were discarded rolled on the floor with clattering sounds. Screams rose from among the students.

Someone started chanting support magic. However, when the devil reached for the 2<sup>nd</sup> wing he also grabbed it straight and threw it toward that student. The 3<sup>rd</sup> one, then the 4<sup>th</sup> one, from the body of the struggling Kyousuke, bone wings were being peeled off one after another.

“Eh, eeii! Thiss! Stop that movee!”

Meanwhile, the fierce counterattack of Rin and Akira continued. As expected, did he think that Rin’s attack was annoying, the devil stopped his hand that

once held the bone wing and gather black energy on his right fist. A lightning-like effect ran through his palm. Rin who was desperately cutting his face stopped moving for a second to the new ability which the red winged devil demonstrated.

“Eh, wh-what...?”

“Be quiet for a little bit.”

Rin hurriedly retracted herself into the joint part of the armor, but the fingertips of the devil clad in black lightning thrust into the joint part as it was. Then, *\*pakin\**! There was a sound and dull pain ran through Kyousuke’s body.

“Hiyaun!”

At the end of that scream, Rin’s telepathic link was interrupted. The connection that wrapped his whole body was canceled and there was a feeling of the weight of the armor bore down on his body. From the gap of the armor, a blue colored semi-liquid form started flowing out. It was the body of the unconscious Rin.

With just a glance it could be understood that the students were shaken. Kyousuke tried to stand up, but the armor’s weight interfered and he was unable to move. Akira moved the bone wing and tried to take off the armor but that one bone wing was also caught and only one remained.

“Fu~a, 《Fireball》!!”

Right then, a high-density fireball landed on the back of the devil. It exploded on the armor, and the heated flame reached his head. For a moment, the red winged devil turned around and covered his face.

“Gah! Gu ... guuu!!”

Looking over, Kogane supported by Ryuzaki was standing with his right arm outstretched. The red winged devil brushed off the flame fell on his face and turned to Ryuzaki and Kogane. Kogane gave a small scream and Ryuzaki stood in front covering him.

“Eeii! Don’t be afraid!!”

When the devil stucked out his right arm, something like black energy converged and fired off. Ryuzaki shielded Kogane, but with that one strike he

was blown off to the wall and knocked down. The red winged devil tried to approached Kogane with exposed anger.

At that time all armor was finally removed, Kyousuke stood up. Looking at his form cladding the flames of Akira on his whole body, the noises of the students got bigger.

“O-oi, that.... Utsurogi and Hino...?”

“Then the one flatten on the ground is Himemizu...?”

The person flattened over there was extremely uncool.

Kyousuke kept chasing the red winged devil as it was. He amplified Akira's power and fired it continuously as flame bullets. When the red winged devil looked back with a dark look, he tightly clenched his fist and thrust at Kyousuke. The fist went straight to Kyousuke's chest just like that.

“Kyousuke!”

When he heard Akira's cry, Kyousuke understood that he had stupidly stepped in too far.

The fist knocked off Kyousuke's ribs, pulverized his spine and pieced through to the other side. His bones broke down and scattered to pieces, and Akira was separated from Kyousuke's body. Utsurogi Kyousuke had ceased to exist as a skeleton individual so the effect of power amplification disappeared. Screams were raising all around and Kyousuke's body were rolling on the floor *\*karan karan\**. The red winged devil snorted, and further stepped on the fallen bones that were rolling on the floor with his steel boots.

“YOU BASTA~AAAARD!!”

Akira raised a scream. At the same time, some of the students who had been staying in the back, healing their wounds with recovery magic, started moving again. Okumura, Zeku and Kagoi three people again tackled the red winged devil.

“《EVIL FLARE》EEE~E!!”

Black magic of flame attribute which Sakuma invoked rushed to the devil together with flame bullets which Akira released. The devil flicked off the three bodies trying to hold him down and took the released magic with his gauntlet. A

sightly annoyed expression floated on the devil's face.

"Doesn't seem to be coming out even though I am making such a fuss, is that person serious...?"

The students here were not calm enough to question the real intentions of those spoken words. Kyousuke who only had parts of his upper body, his right arm and his skull left, barely moved his body and turned his eyes toward Kogane.

The red winged devil trampled the outstretched right arm of Kyousuke and grabbed the body of Kogane who had fallen on the floor and was trembling *\*gata gata\**.

"Hi-hiii!"

"If I return home with one person, I can show it to the King!"

"Ko-Kogane...!"

The words Kyousuke tried to say didn't come out. The devil carried Kogane who was struggling *\*jita bata\** under his arm.

"You hear me!"

Even while Okumura and the others who tried to catch up desperately, in addition to Inugami who jumped out and Uozumi and the rest went after him, the devil raised a scream toward the back of the corridor.

"I don't know what you plan to do, but if you ignore this request any further, I will regard it as treason to the King!"

Those words, as expected, were thrown out for someone who wasn't in this place. The devil waited a few seconds but knowing that there was no response, he clicked his tongue, spread his wings and flew away leaving only a few words.

"Fine then! Next time, (I will) come leading the unit!"

After the red winged devil had gone, the tension and fear that they were subjected to lifted, and then only the hard to described sense of defeat remained within the classmates.

Kogane was kidnapped! Kyousuke's skeleton was shattered! It's an utter defeat!

# Chapter 21: Bloodstained Nucleus

“Uu...”

Kyousuke raised his upper body with a little groaning voice. At that time, Kyousuke finally realized that his upper body had returned to its original form. Due to the battle with the red winged devil, his cervical spine and every ribs were supposed to be completely shattered and rolling fruitlessly on the floor. However, Kyousuke who was lying on the bed surely confirmed that the bones of his whole body that should have been crushed was back to normal. *Has Gofunkawahara rearranged me? But in that case, whose parts are they from....*

“U-Utsurogi-kun...”

As he heard a trembling voice from the side, he looked toward it and saw Rin who was trembling \*puru puru\*.

Rin was not the only one. Sakuma, Selena and Akira were surrounding Kyousuke, and a little further away was Akai who was polishing her nails with an uninterested look. Apparently he seemed to have worried them considerably. Kyousuke scratched his head and once again looked around at everyone.

“Ah, no, everyone...”

“Utsurogi-kun~!!”

“Eehh!? Th-thaaattt~!?”

While tears were forming in her eyes, Sakuma hugged Kyousuke’s body, and Rin gave a panicky voice.

“Wait—wait a moment!? That, let’s me go there ... th—that~...”

“What is Himemizu saying...”

“W—well okay.... Utsurogi-kun~!”

“O—ou...”

Rin came winding around his empty left arm. Being hugged by Sakuma, entangled by Rin, and this time Selena jumped at Kyousuke’s femur, rendering it completely immobile.

“W–well, me too! Utsurogi-san~!”

“Selena-san too!”

“He—heheheh.... Utsurogi-san, you have a nice femur.... A creature who walks biped like a human being, the bones here developed well. The skeleton’s frame weathers and weakens with the passage of time so it tends to become brittle, but Utsurogi-san’s femur feels like it’s rich in calcium...”

Just that the viewpoint of a certain someone was different.

“Well, it’s good that you’re safe, Kyousuke.”

Although he thought that Akira was surely angry, but the words that he said while floating was calm.

“Ah, right.... It’s good that I’m safe but.... Why am I unharmed? Was it Gofunkawahara?”

“No. As expected, there was no time to go pick up spare bones to help you whose body was physically destroyed.”

Saying so, Akira looked at Selena who was stroking the femur with great interest.

According to her story, it seems that monsters such as slime and skeleton could survive only by preserving the shape and mass kept in a special information nucleus called the conceptual nucleus. Although it is possible to rearrange parts of the skeleton by changing the parts of the body, if the cervical spine or ribs were destroyed, the shape of life cannot be maintained unless the destroyed parts were temporarily filled. Or so it seems.

*Seem, because the name is «conceptual nucleus» in the first place. It was unknown if it was common sense of this world or because Selena was familiar with monster information, but the words came out naturally.*

In any case, Selena said such a thing, so there was a possibility that Kyousuke would die before they managed to gathered new parts in order to help him. It seemed like so.

“Well then, what happened?”

“That is, it’s Akai...”

“Akai?”

While Kyousuke kept his body still, he turned his eyes only toward Akai.

Class Queen Akai Asuka, as usual was polishing her nails and had no interest in Kyousuke. Without giving him a single glance, she spoke in a bored tone.

“What?”

“Ah, no, Akai ... what did you do?”

“I used my blood.”

“Akai’s blood?”

Akai had a special skill called Bloody Corps (named by Akira) which allowed her to freely manipulated soldiers created with her own blood. Was it a racial ability as a vampire or was it Akai’s unique ability? Using that «*blood*», it was said that she «*resurrected*» the skeleton of Kyousuke who broke down into pieces.

He could hardly believe it, but it seemed to be true since everyone in the place including Akira didn’t voice out in particular. So then, it was said that Akai’s drops of blood were circulating Kyousuke’s entire body right now.

“Something like that, I can’t quite seem to grasp the sensation...”

“Well it’s fine even if you can’t. Your life was saved in the end.”

“Ah. Thank you, Akai, I was saved.”

“I didn’t do it for you.”

*Well then for whom.* Was it because the one hugging Kyousuke’s body right now, Sakuma was sad?

He decided to keep quiet as it was likely to be confusing if he asked about that. It seemed that thought was conveyed to Rin, as could be understood from the fact that Rin’s power entangled on his left arm strengthened abnormally.

“Anyway Sachi, can you separate from Utsurogi soon.”

“Ah, y–yeah. Sorry, Utsurogi-kun...”

Sakuma apologized and released her hands hugging Kyousuke.

The situation had finally calmed down, and Kyousuke had just come back to thinking calmly. However, even in the somewhat calm place, there was too much to worry about, all the mysteries and circumstances needed to be processed in turn. Kyousuke put a hand on his forehead, thinking about it.

“I’ll say it first but Kyousuke, Kogane was caught by that red winged devil.”

“...Ahh, I know that.”

Without at least one souvenir, it was impossible to tell the King. That devil said so. Kogane became that souvenir.

“In the first place, what exactly was that devil? It seemed like he knew our circumstances.”

“I don’t know. He said something about hits and misses. Ryuzaki-kun is a hit and Hibiki-chan is a miss.”

Rin was bouncing *\*tappo n tappo\** and said so.

“I don’t understand saying that Inugami is a miss. I think in our case, it’s a big miss though.”

“Afterwards, it was said that Kyousuke who grasps his own unique ability and incorporates it in tactics was «Phase 2».”

“Phase 2, does that mean there’s also Phase 3?”

Kyousuke thought with his hand on his chin.

*I wonder if Akai’s blood that regenerated my bones is a unique ability. Or is it just a racial ability? Like Bloody Corps, it is also a part that could not be understood well. In this one case, the mystery about her deepened greatly. It is a problem that we are not friendly enough to ask about it in detail.*

“In any case, that red winged devil holds clues about the former world...”

And as he was saying so, Kyousuke saw Selena. *Was this information supposed to be kept secret from her?*

However, Selena stopped her hand stroking his femur and laughed lightly.

“Ah, no, don’t worry. Ryuzaki-san told me all the circumstances after that.”

“Re-really?”

“It’s already not a situation where we can hide something from each other. Along with Selena-chan, we hold another meeting. Now, Ryuzaki-kun and the leaders of the exploration teams are discussing the main parts.”

Regarding information that came out at the meeting, they decided to have further discussion, Rin said.

“I was surprised. Utsurogi-san and everyone are «trippers».”

“Do you mean people teleported from different worlds?”

“That’s right. They’re also called «*foreigner*», there are also some in my country. However, to be honest, I’ve never heard of anything like changing your appearance to a monster, so it may be more just that...”

“Really...”

Kyousuke dropped his shoulders. Even among the other faces that should have already heard the story, the heavy mood gloomed.

*By the way, what are other students doing now?* Some was still frightened by the overwhelming power that the red winged devil showed, but most of the remaining people seemed to have headed toward the heavy cruiser with Gofunkawahara and Kuremori. They were to promptly execute the heavy cruiser remodeling plan raised at the previous meeting.

That red winged devil said *『(I will) come again』*. They wanted to have as many cards as possible before that. It would be such a thing. To be honest, they didn’t know how much time was available before the devil came.

“Well, the situation is pretty bad, isn’t it?”

Sakuma floated a weak smile.

“What kind of cooperation would we do with Selena-san? Including that, the story was decided at the meeting just earlier.”

“With Selena-san?”

“Yeah.... When Utsurogi-kun wake up, he wants everyone to come to the strategy room.... Ryuzaki-kun said.”

Everyone looked at Sakuma when she said that. Kyousuke, Rin, Akira, and Selena as well. Kyousuke once again confirmed the feelings in both hands. Whether the bones infused with Akai’s blood were working properly or not, he didn’t feel any sense of discomfort when moving his body at all. Rather, there was a feeling that the movement of his whole body was strangely light. It seemed to be better than before.

“I have no problem in particular. If everyone is okay, we can go now.”

“All right, let’s go then!”

Rin gave a cheerful voice, such a thing was decided. Kyousuke got up and tried to leave the room.

“Ah, Utsurogi.... In case you’re wondering.”

Again, without even sparing him a glance, Akai raised her voice.

“Because the side effects may not be small. I’ll warn you now.”

“Don’t threaten me too much...”

“I’m not threatening you in particular though.”

*The side effects of blood. I wonder what it is.* For Kyousuke, even the fact that he was resuscitated by her blood was still difficult to come to terms with. While half ignoring the words of Akai, Kyousuke left the nap room with Rin and the others.

“However, the identity of the previously seen black knight is Kyousuke group...”

“It seems to be called Black Knight Trinity Full Cross.”

“That name is quite long, isn’t it?”

“Yeah, it’s long...”

While summarizing the materials after the meeting in the strategy room, Ryuzaki made a bitter smile.

With the flow after the meeting, in the strategy room at the time, 2<sup>nd</sup> exploration team’s leader Uozumi older brother, 3<sup>rd</sup> exploration team’s leader Kensaki, 4<sup>th</sup> exploration team’s leader Nekomiya, such people were gathered. The leaders of the exploration teams were all nominated by Ryuzaki himself, and had also distinguished themselves in the class.

Boasting a shiny black coat, Nekomiya Miya sat on Ryuzaki’s office desk and talked a little pretentiously.

“Then, class rep and Kensaki already knew about it. You’re quite the bad humans.”

“We’re not humans.”

Returning the classic joke in the class as well, Kensaki shrugged her shoulders.

“It seems they wanted to hide their identity as much as possible at Hino’s

request."

"Ah, Hino was an otaku."

Uozumi made a bitter smile on the face specific to Gillman.

"I also watched occasionally up until middle school. But since there were Sunday training and morning practices once I entered high-school."

"Well, I think it wasn't only because of Hino's hobbies that they hid their identity. They didn't want to confuse the class too much. Whether or not their judgment was right is unknown."

Ryuzaki kept their follow up properly.

At least during the team leaders meeting, there was no negative opinion on Kyousuke group's Full Cross. Because of the fact that they hid their identity, it was expected that feelings of distrust would arise within the class, as for that it would be left to the team leaders to give a gentle chiding.

If there was one good thing about the attack of the red winged devil, it was that the class had been united as a result, especially among these team leaders. They seemed to have a sense of solidarity between those who had the same hardships at last, even among students who did not talk much in the classroom, such as Uozumi of the swimming club and Nekomiya of the drama club, the discussion was getting more lively.

"Well then, class rep. This way we can proceed with the repair of the heavy cruiser in a rapid pace, it's fine to just leave the previously discussed matters to Utsurogi group."

Nekomiya asked while playing with her whiskers.

"Well, it's reasonable. But whether Utsurogi himself agrees or not, we will talk about it after this."

There was a knocking sound on the door just around there. When they gave a response, the door opened briskly and the person himself, Utsurogi showed up.

"Ah, well then I'll be excusing myself."

However, with bowtie on her chest, Nekomiya immediately jumped off the office desk. Cait Sith was a cat fairy which was said to be the motif for *Puss in Boots*, but such a theatrical playful behavior really gave off the feeling of

belonging to the drama club indeed. Following after Nekomiya, Kensaki, Uozumi left the strategy room.

“Thanks for coming. Utsurogi, come in.”

“Ah, right...”

Seeing off Nekomiya with her prided key tail swaying horizontally, Kyousuke group entered the strategy room. Rin also high-fived with Kensaki and Uozumi as greetings. It was a solidarity feeling unique to the sport clubs. She seemed to also have the ability to communicate naturally.

“Utsurogi, is your physical condition doing well?”

“It got better. Thanks to Akai’s blood.”

*Akai’s blood?* Hearing that word, Ryuzaki frowned a little.

Kyousuke’s body, which was crushed into pieces, could not be repaired by recovery magic. According to Selena’s words, his body, which had already been in a half-dead state, could not repair the defective parts by something on the level of recovery magic. This is the same for humans and other monsters, and it seems that recovery magic wouldn’t work in a state where serious organs such as the heart and lungs are destroyed.

However, when Akai who heard Selena’s story dropped her blood into Kyousuke, the shattered bones were restored in a moment. Because of games and manga, Ryuzaki knew about such a powerful regeneration ability of vampires somewhat, he was wondering how much hidden abilities Akai still had.

And Akai made it clear that this was an emergency measure and she basically wouldn’t use it in the future. Pursuing further, it seemed that because there were side effects that was difficult for Akai to tell.

“So, Ryuzaki. What are you talking about?”

“Ah, nn, that’s right. Sorry.”

Ryuzaki looked around at the group of Kyousuke, Rin, Akira and Selena who entered the room.

“Utsurogi, how much do you know about our current situation?”

“Mostly, I asked Himemizu and Akira. Are we going to repair the heavy cruiser

at a rapid pace?"

"Ah. Also, we will try to finish exploring the dungeon at the same time. Perhaps, the lowest level is the 15<sup>th</sup> underground floor. If you think that there is something like a boss monster, it doesn't seem so."

Although the words labyrinth and dungeon were completely misleading, originally the underground labyrinth seemed to be only a common abandoned cemetery that monsters had taken root in. When it was said that there was also Selena's analysis in this matter, she was standing next to Kyousuke and Akira proudly sticking out her chest.

"As for the renovation of the heavy cruiser, Kuremori is going to work on the repair in a hurry from now on, well 10 days at the earliest or it will take around 2 weeks."

"T-to finish it so fast like that instead...? Are you okay?"

"The materials are almost enough, it doesn't seem impossible if we work the exploration teams a little. Still, it is said to be quite a crude rushed work, cutting corners and all, well it will be able to move."

Kyousuke was shaking his head at the incredible feat. *Well, I understand your feelings.* It was also unbelievable for Ryuzaki as well. However, if Kuremori said he would be able to do it, he would have no choice but to leave it alone.

"It's only for 10 days to 2 weeks, that red winged devil may not necessarily show up again before then."

Kyousuke nodded as well when the greatest concern at the moment was pointed out.

"We told Selena-san everything and consulted. Because of that. It became the flow of how to request reinforcements from Selena-san's hometown."

"To humans ... reinforcements...?"

Kyousuke turned his gaze toward Selena. Selena clenched her fists and nodded.

"Even we were originally humans. In case we are attacked by such an incomprehensible monster, it will be better to ask humans for help."

Of course, there was also a bit of hesitation to make that decision.

Perhaps the ones with the most accurate grasp on the situation of Jindai high-school 2<sup>nd</sup> year class 4 were the red winged devil and the person connected to it. If they were to confront him, there was a possibility that the information on means to return to human beings and go back to the former world would go out of their grasp. Still, Ryuzaki and all the team leaders chose the way to cooperate with humans.

From the words of that devil, he had absolutely no intention of changing them back to their original forms.

Speaking of the red winged devil, there was also the concern about the existence that the devil last called out to. Talking about ideas, it seemed likely to be the «*Wight King*», but there was no confirmation for it.

Given one thing, the situation now was that mysteries emerged in a chain. Ryuzaki changed his focus and continued talking.

“So while advancing the renovation from now on, we will request cooperation by communicating our circumstance to Selena-san’s hometown.”

“While advancing, that ... how are we going to do that?”

“To that end, of course, we have to get her back home.”

Kyousuke probably already guessed it up to there. Those talks had already passed through Rin and Akira, so the two of them were remaining silent. They meant to entrust the decision to Kyousuke.

“We are going to be Selena-san’s escorts?”

“I won’t say the impossible. If Utsurogi refuses, I will call out to another student.”

Ryuzaki said, organizing the documents \*ton ton\*. [Notes]

“I don’t feel like refusing, but I want to know the reason why we were chosen.”

“It’s difficult to say, because the combination of Utsurogi group seem to be the weakest. There is little worry of alerting the other party.”

There was no mincing words, Ryuzaki said it straight. As one would expected, even Kyousuke fell silent at this as well.

Selena looked up at Utsurogi and said.

"It is my shishou who guards the defensive walls in the west of the kingdom. My shishou is a woman, but still as strong as my mother in her heyday..."

"Ah, to mow down an entire army with one swing of a sword..."

"She is one of the strongest in the kingdom. Although she can't use magic, she would still be one of the ten strongest people across the continent ... ah, no, saying that is probably too much."

Kyousuke seemed to be worrying about how much he could trust her story while scratching his head. *No wonder. Even Ryuzaki couldn't believe Selena's story as well. However, we have to make guesses based on the information coming from her.*

"Well, I got it, Ryuzaki. In order to not unskillfully alarm Selena-san's shishou-san, we are going to escort Selena-san with a personnel selection that seems as weak as possible."

"Ah, that's right."

"However, if said that we're putting a group of weaklings as Selena-san's escorts, isn't there no sincerity in that?"

It was Rin who responded to Kyousuke's doubtful words.

"At that time, we should combine."

Akira also nodded.

"Kyousuke, our strength is «*wait-and-see strength*» by combining. It is fine for us to look weak at first glance. 『*Although weak, they properly escorted her*』, it's fine if they think that, 『*Leaving the escort to such weaklings is making light of her treatment*』, if they seem like saying something like that, we need to combine."

Kyousuke looked up at the ceiling and scratched his chin.

"Well, I don't really know but.... Even if we do take Selena-san there, I wonder if they're going to listen to our story."

"It will go well."

\*Guu\*, clenching her fist, Selena said.

"I cannot say anything detailed, but I should also have value as a diplomatic material."

“Really.... Having the strongest one of the kingdom as your shishou, is that not enough...”

Kyousuke thought for a while, but he nodded in due time.

“All right. In case the preparation is done properly, if you say that we are suitable then I don’t particularly mind.”

“I will check it, but Utsurogi, I think this is pretty tough.”

“Well then, I want to take Hakuba.”

He gave out a surprising name, and Ryuzaki’s eyes turned round. Hakuba. Hakuba was a unicorn. Previously, he was one of the classmates who bullied Kyousuke. It was a little surprising when he made the proposal to take him peacefully.

“If we’re on a trip that will take days, I would like some means of transportation. Besides, Hakuba can also use recovery magic.”

“Ahh. That’s right~. But I wonder if it’s okay~. I hope Selena-chan will be able to get on his back...”

“It’s enough if Selena-san can get on. Hakuba will be pleased.”

“That, somehow, are you talking with the premise that I am a virgin? It is just as I imagined, isn’t it?”

Rin didn’t seem to be much concerned, but Akira was a bit unhappy \*fuyo fuyo\* floating around.

Hakuba was the recovery staff of the 1<sup>st</sup> exploration team. Although it was close to the strongest team at the time incorporating Ace members such as Sakuma and Akai, but considering the work of the entire class in the future, some groups would be reorganized, so taking him wouldn’t hurt so much. And if it was a unicorn, the other party’s vigilance would be thin.  
It became a very unusual story, but it would also prove that they didn’t violate Selena.

After that, the talk about Kyousuke and Selena repatriation advanced for a while. As for Selena, she didn’t show too much joy at the fact that *『I can go home after this』. 『Something like that, it’s not immediately, is it?』* she was saying, well, those words might just be understandable.  
Eventually, the talk was over, and it was the flow where they all left the room.

After going out of the strategy room in turn with Selena, Rin and Akira, only Kyousuke suddenly stopped and looked back at Ryuzaki.

“Hey, Ryuzaki...”

Then, Ryuzaki understood what he was going to say.

“As a result of the team leaders meeting, the rescue of Kogane will not take precedence.”

“Really...”

When he told as cool-headed as possible, Kyousuke returned short words.

There wasn’t a single student who said that it was good that Kogane was taken away at the time. But even during the team leaders meeting, such an atmosphere was seeping out silently. Ryuzaki, while he wanted to say that Kogane was also one of the important friends in his class, decided to swallow it after all.

It was good that the one taken was Kogane. That was the truth. If it was any other student, the problem would have been more serious. It was because Kogane was disliked in the class, so there was no reason to actively rescue him. Going to rescue meant to get on to the main circle of enemies with that fighting ability.  
It was because the kidnapped one was Kogane that students who said to do such a dangerous thing did not come out.

Kogane once helped Kyousuke at that time. Though as a result, it didn’t make any difference.

He shot a fire magic that didn’t have to be shot at the devil’s back. Ryuzaki was watching it.

*I want to believe that it was a sign of reform.*

“Ryuzaki, the data left by Kogane, is it likely to be useful?”

“Ah, thanks to that, the work of Kuremori is also going smoothly.”

“Really...”

Saying so, Kyousuke left the strategy room. Ryuzaki narrowed his eyes.

He was worried about Kogane, and he was also worried about Kyousuke. To

tell the truth, in Ryuzaki's mind, it was better if Kyousuke had refused the matter of Selena's repatriation, that way he would have some peace of mind. Honestly, it was hard to think that the body of Utsurogi Kyousuke was stable. Akai gave Kyousuke her blood, and that was said to have side effects. Even if he asked how much of a side effect it was, Akai didn't say any details. But still, as he persistently asked questions, she only left the words *『for better or worse』*.

For better or worse, there were side effects.

He wondered if something was going to happen to Kyousuke's body.

What are the side effects of Akai-san's blood!? Kyousuke-kun is departing!

# Chapter 22: Surarin Storm Warning

“...and so.”

Selena explained, referring to the diagram widely spread in the dining room.

“At the moment, unique abilities, as the red winged devil said, «*Phase 2*», students who managed to activate them are hardly confirmed. I can say reliably, is it not about the amplifying ability of Utsurogi-san?”

In the dining room, more than dozens of students were listening to her stories with serious faces. Some students even kept their notes eagerly, just like in classes. Many of them, such as Uozumi older brother, Kensaki, Nekomiya, were leaders of the exploration teams.

Selena, compared to when she was said to be useless, continued the discussion with a somewhat lively expression.

“Including the complete beast transformation of Lycanthrope which is an ability that cannot be confirmed in this world, and Akai-san’s Bloody Corps, these may also be unique abilities. Gofunkawahara-san’s item search ability, is a little difficult to say. However, in this case, a unique ability may not be a power far removed from the image of your race, presumably. For example, Uozumi-san may not get drills on both hands and start digging through the ground, Kensaki-san won’t be able to grow wings on her back and fly in the sky. However, it is only a hypothesis.”

Kyousuke group was watching from the edge of the dining room such a state of Selena.

They didn’t have much time to leave the base and head for the kingdom that was far in the East. However, in that short amount of time, Selena decided to open a hands-on course on monster abilities to applicants. Regarding her monster knowledge, probably most students had recognized. Selena was saying that if she could get recognized so easily, she should have done so earlier.

Several students had been able to use magic by instinct since they came to this world. But if they were to ask Selena, she would say that they were not

utilizing their own abilities fully.

“Selena-san, what kind of racial abilities a gillman has?”

“N—...”

Uozumi older brother asked questions by raising his hand, Selena thought a little and then answered.

“After all, because it is a swimming ability, I feel it is difficult to make use of it here.... However, the whole body muscles, to make use of it for swimming, especially from here to this area over here have extraordinary development...”

Selena walked closely to Uozumi with serious look and rubbed his brachial muscles and thigh muscles and so on. Uozumi was trying his utmost to hold down his grinning face, and the public morals committee member Kensaki pinched his scale.

“There are red gillman and white gillman, but Uozumi-san is a red gillman. The muscles have very high endurance, long lasting stamina. In addition, it is firm and delicious.”

“That last information is something that I didn’t want to hear...”

Uozumi kept writing on his notes properly while smiling bitterly. Selena explained also to other students, the dullahan Kensaki had the ability to overcome *«the borderline of death»*, but in principle as an undead she was weak against heat and light, the cait sith Nekomiya had the ability to move from shadows to shadows, and for students who were not there, she added a few words about their abilities as well.

“Me too, I will have her tutor me fully afterwards.”

Rin said with a bright voice while watching such Selena.

“But I feel that Himemizu have already make use of your ability quite well.”  
“That’s no good. Because most of the finishers until now have been taken by Hino-kun...”

Moreover, Rin added.

“Even in the last fight against the red winged devil, I fainted in the middle.”

Apparently she seemed to feel that she had to become strong.

“More, I hope to become Utsurogi-kun’s strength.”

“Himemizu has become my strength quite plenty enough.”

“O–ou...! Something like that, I feel like I am not accustomed to being straightly praised!”

Rin’s unique ability, he wondered what it was really like? Domestically produced RPG with slime Kyousuke had played was as much as a mountain, but nothing immediately came to mind. *Could she take in metal and become a metal slime? If the whole body looks like a terminator, that would seem extremely strong.*

When Kyousuke glanced at Rin, like Kyousuke, Rin also seemed to be thinking about her own unique ability.

“I wonder if I will be able to shoot electric shock. Piercing attribute...”

“Slime’s electric shock is a nightmare. Because of that, how many emperors I have lost...”

“Because you challenge with Imperial Cross.”

How would they generate electricity in the body of a slime in the first place? Selena unexpectedly readily answered *『perhaps using electric potential differences between cells to create electric shock』* or something like that. Since Kyousuke’s ability was discovered and the phrase «Phase 2» was said by the red winged devil, other students were also searching for their own unique abilities. Kyousuke was quite fortunate to have found it, after all, it didn’t seem easy to notice.

Since then, as they continued to silly chat about Rin’s unique ability, suddenly the topic shifted to another person.

“Utsurogi-kun. Speaking of which, is there anything about the side effects of Akai-san’s blood?”

“No, right now it’s not much.... If I’m forced to say...”

“If you’re forced to say?”

“My body got stronger.”

“.....”

As Kyousuke said so while taking the double-biceps pose, Rin became silent. Her eyes had to be considerably cold if there was any.

"No, it's not a joke. I feel the bones themselves have become harder. Also, my body's movement has become lighter than before as well."

"Fu~n. I wonder if it is an overall spec up..."

It was a reasonable guess, but that was not always the case. And this was merely a *『better side effect』*.

If one could restore parts irreproducible with recovery magic and further raise the person's ability, those were totally good things. Akai after all had no need to hesitate. It would be good to use it on other students *\*ban ban\**, which then led to the overall power up of the class.

Akai didn't do so because she was concerned about the *『worse side effect』*.

"What is the most likely worse side effect?"

And Rin said.

"Something like becoming Akai-san's minion. I guess minion is the wrong way to call it, so servant?"

"In this case, the right one is *『kin』*?"

It wasn't that Kyousuke didn't think about it. Akai was a vampire. Sucking blood and increasing the number of friends, then the companion added was called *«kin»* and have their will dominated, such is the image of the monster called vampire. Restoring the defective parts of the body and also the rise in physical specs, those were perfect matches to the image of a vampire.  
Kyousuke, being a skeleton, had he become a vampire?

"Surely? Utsurogi-kun, do you want to suck blood?"

"No, especially.... Even my cuspid teeth are not sharp?"

"Ah~ yeah. That's right."

However, even if he did not become a *«vampire»*, there was a possibility of becoming Akai's *«kin»*.

In principle, it was not possible to oppose the parental vampire. Kyousuke would be obliged to obey the instructions of Akai.

Akai wasn't such a bad girl. Kyousuke would like to believe that she would not make a terrible order ignoring his free will, also, there was no sense of his actions being bounded at the moment. If the disadvantage was to say *«turning*

*into Akai's kin*», he felt that it was not such a fatal side effect.

“Utsurogi-kun, are you seriously thinking about it?”

Did she read Kyousuke's thought, Rin said strongly while pouting her lips (not).

“I also think Akai-san is a good person, but if someone can forcibly hold down your will. Usually, it doesn't feel good?”

“Yeah—, well, I suppose so...”

“Ah~, somehow, I think I understand Hino-kun's feelings for the first time.”

*This is a big problem. It looks like the fault-finding partners have become 2 people now.*

Just around then, it seemed that Selena's practical teaching course had ended. The students picked up their notes and \*zoro zoro\* went out of the dining room. Selena was waving with a smile.

“Ah~, it was just right. Did it end~?”

The cook Sugiura peeked out from inside the kitchen.

“Hino-kun was helping me out for a moment. I was making preserved dishes for Utsurogi-kun and everyone.”

That said, Sugiura came out with some smoked meat on a tray. Rin and Kyousuke also stepped into the dining room.

“Indeed, it is smoked dungeon crocodile.”

Selena nodded, picking up one of the meat.

“Dungeon crocodiles are reptile-type monsters living in labyrinths. They are also living in this dungeon.”

Smoked crocodile meat was also used for trade with the goblins living in the heavy cruiser. According to Gofunkawahara's stories, the goblins regularly hunted monsters such as wilderness worm, desert fly, desert vulture, etc in groups and seemed to be using them as food. Crocodile meat available in trade with 2<sup>nd</sup> year class 4 was handy as preserved food that could be obtained intact.

The preserved food was not just smoked crocodile meat. There were also mock-

pasta, dried fish, dried potato, etc.

"According to the story of Selena-san and Zeku, I think generally it would take around 3 to 5 days. Be careful and prepare for 10 days. Utsurogi-kun, Hino-kun, Surarin, Hakuba-kun, Selena-san, there are five of you."

"I forcibly raised the amount of heat and removed the moisture. I'm tired..."

Akira who seemed to be in a weakened fire power state more than ever, \*fuyo fuyo\* came flying over.

"Oh~, everything looks delicious..."

"Surarin, it's no good to snitch food."

"I—I know..."

By the way, just when they were transporting these food, one problem was discovered.

Compared to the number of people, there were few members suitable for carrying packages. If Kyousuke didn't combine with Rin, he could not exercise proper power, and he would not be able to carry a lot of luggage, the same applied to Akira. In the end, it was agreed that Hakuba would pulled a wagon, and it seemed that they would be putting a lot of hardship on him.

"The most scary thing is to encounter the red winged devil on the way across the wasteland..."

Selena muttered a few words while loading preserved food into the prepared wagon.

"By the way, is Selena-san's shishou-san stronger than that devil?"

"What is it? I can not so much as imagine how shishou would lose..."

Even Kyousuke could not imagine that there was an existence stronger than that red winged devil. Even Full Cross which buried the Wight King couldn't stand up against him. It was an overwhelming defeat in physical strength and the black armor's defense was solid as well.

He felt that he might have to fight with that devil someday. At that time, he could not envision of how to win.

"Utsurogi-kun, it's no good to think too hard about it~."

"That's right. It is my role to take the stomach pain, it's fine for you to think

care-freely."

Rin and Akira said so. *Is it such a thing?* Kyousuke thought. *However, it is surely not a problem that could be solved by overthinking.*

For the time being, as Rin secretly tried to extend her hand to the smoked meat, he slapped it down.

Already, it seemed that the departure of Kyousuke group had already been notified to the class. Not only Sugiura, but other students also cooperated in preparing for the trip. It was strangely fresh for Kyousuke to exchange greetings when coming and going to the hallway. If anything, it was always just being a little cozy in a corner until now.

Since the identity of Full Cross was revealed as Kyousuke group, there was no students who became wary, if anything, many reactions were positive. Well, it was better than being alienated. Rin cheerfully high-fived the students coming and going, even after becoming a slime, she was having fun talking with her communication power, for Akira who truly had communication disorder, the place didn't seem anything but painful.

"Utsurogi, please escort Selena-san safely.... I'm counting on you...!"

Grabbing both of Kyousuke's shoulders, the living mushroom spoke with serious look, it was Kinogasa. From his enthusiasm regarding Selena, he seemed to be quite serious, so Kyousuke decided to nod without saying anything. If stimulated poorly it seemed that strange spores would be flying and that would be quite terrifying.

"Himemizu, don't be unreasonable."

"Take care~, Surarin."

Uozumi brother and sister, who belonged to the same team as Kinogasa, were enjoying a fun conversation with Rin.

They had already finished their preparation and were about to leave. It wouldn't take as long as 2 weeks if things went smoothly, and the renovation of the heavy cruiser would be about half completed around the time they came

back. The only concern was that there was a possibility of a second attack by the red winged devil in the meantime, but it was no use even if they worried about it.

In particular, it wouldn't be a long goodbye. There was nothing like an exaggerated send-off. Most students were already heading toward the renovation work of the heavy cruiser.

When they got out of the labyrinth, Hakuba was already there waiting.

"Yo, Hakuba. Sorry to have kept you waiting."

"Ah, o-ou. Utsurogi..."

When he gave a greeting with one hand raised, Hakuba answered with swimming eyes.

"We will be traveling together for a week or so from now, so please treat me well."

"Ah, yeah. I see, yeah..."

*He seems somewhat nervous. Is his stomach condition bad,* as he thought so, Hakuba spoke.

"No, that, Utsurogi.... That is, I'm sorry."

"Hmm?"

"It was about the time when I vented my anger on you. Somehow, I was in a bad mood."

"I don't particularly mind."

Without especially lying about his feelings, Kyousuke easily said it, Hakuba seemed to be staring unblinkingly at his face just like that.

"I—is that so...?"

"Ahh."

"Hakuba, Kyousuke is that kind of guy."

From the back of Kyousuke, while floating \*fuyo fuyo\* Akira entered the conversation.

"It also isn't that he tries to smooth things over in particular, he seriously doesn't mind. So it's fine to take it at face value without worrying too much. However, I have not forgotten the behavior that you and Washio had toward

Kyousuke.”

“Why does Hino worry so much about Utsurogi...”

“You see, Hino-kun is a homo.”

*There is something strangely nostalgic about this exchange.* Selena nodded interestedly with her arms folded *『I see, he is homosexual』.* Even though I've said it's different.

“Well, Hakuba-san. Thank you in advance.”

Selena smiled \*nikori\* and walked up to Hakuba. Hakuba gulped, he lightly bowed.

A mood full of tension drifted among everyone.

Hakuba was a unicorn. They have the nature to hate unclean things, and in the distorted legends, they are said to be *『only giving their hearts to virgins』.* This isn't limited to Kyousuke and the others' world, but it seems to be similar on this side as well. Hakuba also came to this world and tried to put a girl on his back, but he carried a sorrowful past that his body rejected and caused a shock making him fall asleep for three days and three nights.

Who was the girl that could not get on, it would be kept hidden to protect her honor.

If Selena could not get on Hakuba here, not only Hakuba but Kyousuke also would be slightly shocked. No, apart from that, if she was about that age then it might be normal. But it was Selena after all so it might not be overreacting.

Selena pierced her spear that was brought with her when she came to the dungeon to the ground and using it as a foothold jumped on Hakuba's back. \*Bikun\*, Hakuba's body trembled, then without anything special happened, she straddled the unicorn's back.

“O—ohhh—...”

Kyousuke and Rin applauded for the time being. Hakuba also gave a sigh of big relief.

“Ehhh!? What is that reaction! Somehow, whichever meaning it has, is still very shocking!”

“No, yeah, there wasn't any deep meaning. Even though everyone looks like

this we're still in the spring of youth."

Rin while bouncing \**tappon tappon*\* gave a mysterious follow-up. Selena seemed to be reasonably accustomed to handling horses. Hakuba had an impromptu saddle and paddle, but there was no danger in her way of gripping the reins. *Did she say she is a knight apprentice?* Combat wasn't quite there yet, but equestrian might be reasonable. However, the long spear as a weapon was hard to swing on a horse.

While they were checking the baggage loaded on Hakuba's wagon, another student came out from the base.

"Ah, uh, Utsurogi-kun."

"Oh~, it's Saa-chan."

Kyousuke also raised his face at Rin's voice. It was Sakuma indeed. Today she had taken off her usual coat and there were many skin color components after a long time. The nose on Hakuba's horse face grew further.

"Ah, Sakuma. Have you come to see us off?"

"Yup.... Umm, u~umm.... Do your best!"

Suddenly Sakuma took a guts pose and her chest shook \**purun*\*.

"Ahh, yeah. I'll try my best. Thank you."

"Also, um..."

"This, she thought she should say something in the meantime, but nothing in particular came to mind and she's stuck for words..."

Rin while watching Sakuma desperate wandering line of sight, gave a calm commentary.

"She had a blessed position before the transference and a blessed appearance after the transference. I began to feel a sense of crisis in the existence of Selena-chan and myself, and even Akai-san has been catching up mysteriously, but in particular, would Saa-chan be able to have an intimate relationship with Utsurogi-kun in the near future?"

"Well I guess in the race that you talked about, the one leading at the top would be Hino..."

"You're right. Because I'm just a triangular corner after all..."

Rin kept talking with Hakuba as it was, while Selena alone was tilting her head as she truly didn't understand what they were talking about. Akira was floating gently next to Kyousuke.

"Umm, Utsurogi-kun..., d–do your best!"

"Ahh, yeah. I'll try my best. Thank you."

"Well, well then I.... I will go exploring with Asuka-chan and everyone!"

"Dive to the bottom level today, give it your all!"

"Yes~, Thank you!"

Sakuma went back to the base again as she waved her hand.

"Hey, Utsurogi..."

Hakuba muttered a few words.

"Although I just apologized, can I kick you away?"

"Please stop."

All of them departed for the East.

As they went on for a while, they got to the heavy cruiser under renovation. It seemed that negotiations with the boss of the goblins had already been done, and already led by Kuremori, many students were engaged in renovation work. According to Selena, although the tribe named goblin cannot tinker with machinery, it seems that their hands are dexterous enough to make primitive weapons, and they also helped out the repair with Gofunkawahara working as the interpreter.

"Furthermore, goblins may have a habit of seeking smarter ones as their leaders, so perhaps Gofunkawahara-san may be recognized as a leader."

Selena looked back to the students waving from the ship under repair and said such a thing.

"Did you say that ogre's ranking is determined by strength?"

Rin asked such a thing in a state of combining with Kyousuke. Selena nodded.

"Ogre is muscle strength. However, it is not a society-rich tribe. When females, food and territory compete, they have a fistfight to decide whose strength is better."

"Going so far just to get themselves killed."

"Until 20 years ago it was a militant tribe, but it has not been such a ferocious tribe since the existence that could control the ogres ceased to exist."

*Well, even then, they would still attack humans and eat them,* then she finally added a ridiculous thing at the end.

Beyond the place of the heavy cruiser, going further to the East, from there onward was already unknown territory to them. In contrast with the men who were originally not the talkative type, there was absolutely no sign that Rin and Selena's chattering was going to end anytime soon.

"Ne~e ne~e Selena-chan, what do you think is my unique ability?"

"Rin-san's unique ability? We~ll.... Because Rin-san has already draw out most of your racial abilities..."

According to Selena's speech, Rin had almost perfectly mastered actions that a common slime could do, such as deformation, density and weight control. Because it was not even possible to use magic, she was told honestly that the image of unique ability didn't come out immediately.

"How about a convenient solution dissolving only clothes and armor?"

Hakuba interposed.

"Eh—ehhh.... Stop it with that sort of erotic manga stuff..."

"No, wait Himemizu. If you melt the sturdy armor of that red winged devil, that might be all right."

"Utsurogi-kun too!?"

*To say half of the reason why Full Cross was defeated by the red winged devil being that armor isn't an exaggeration. If it is possible to melt that armor with a convenient solution that melt only clothes or armor, it may be powerful indeed.* While Kyousuke was thinking seriously, Rin's impatient voice was heard.

"Eh, uh, Utsurogi-kun.... You said that seriously? I am a slime but a girl? You're going to make a girl launch such a questionable liquid...?"

"I think it won't be questionable if you don't use it for shady stuff in particular.... If you melt only the armor, you can neutralize without injuring your opponent, so it's easier to get information."

“Eh—ehhh.... Something like that, I...”

The spirit in Rin’s voice was obviously dropping.

For a while, as they advanced through the wasteland, the sky was strangely dark. Looking up at the sky, clouds had started to appear in the sky that was clear blue.

“Look like it’s going to rain, isn’t it?”

Selena muttered.

“Rain...”

Kyousuke also said.

It was not an uncommon thing, but it was a weather that they had never encountered since coming to this world. Thinking of this dry wasteland, one could see that it was not a region where rain was prosperous, but still it seemed awfully bad that they went on a journey and suddenly encountered rain.

“I mean, isn’t this bad?”

Rin said.

“Hino-kun, won’t you disappear?”

“Certainly, I did not think much about rain.”

In a calm voice, Akira also said.

“Ah, for the time being, there was a lantern among the tools. Akira-san can get in this.”

“All right. I’ll take you up on your offer.”

In the lantern which Selena opened, Akira fit in perfectly.

Nevertheless, as they went further, the black clouds grew thicker and thicker and water droplets soon began to wet the dry ground.

“Atcha~.... It’s raining.”

Hakuba muttered. Akira also nodded in the lantern.

“Although a little early, it may be better to stop our feet and rest. Even if we go through the rain, we are likely to just consume our strength.”

“We should take shelter from the rain somewhere, is there any suitable place?”

"A bit back, but there was a rocky place a while ago. Let's set a tent over there and take some rest."

When Kyousuke group moved to the rocky place with a little running, they spread a canopy along one big rock. Although not so wide, there was still just enough space for Hakuba and Selena to endure the wind and rain. Unlike Kyousuke and Rin, these two people were sitting inside because they had a chance to catch a cold if their bodies got wet poorly.

Akira ejected fire from the lantern and burn the firewood which was loaded in the wagon. While warming up, they ate smoked meat and dried potatoes, and they gathered together for a while.

"The rain looks like it will continue for a while longer."

Kyousuke muttered and all of them gazed out of the canopy.

"For now, let's take lookout in turn and rest. First of all, Himemizu, then Kyousuke. Myself, Hakuba, Selena-san."

"All right! Well then, I will keep a close watch so it's fine for everyone to have a good night's rest!"

Rin \*pyokonto\* jumped out of Kyousuke's body and said in a cheerful voice.

"Ahh, I'm leaving it to you, Himemizu."

"Somehow, I don't seem to be able to take a rest even if you told me to rest..."  
"We're living like this for the coming week. It will be tough if you don't get used to it."

"Leave it to me! Sleeping outdoor is my forte!"

*Noisily arguing with each other for a while, somehow it reminds me of the outdoor school camp a little.*

Kyousuke group lied in the crowded rain shelter that was by no means wide, and then took a nap for a while until the time for changing shift.

Several hours later, what Kyousuke, who fell asleep better than he thought, saw when he woke up was the figure of Himemizu Rin who had sucked in plenty of rainwater and expanded enough to cover his sight.

Will Surarin become able to release a convenient solution dissolving just the clothes!?

# Chapter 23: Surarin Hard

Unusually, it seemed to be raining in the wasteland. The students who were carrying out renovation work at the heavy cruiser, except for some who was working inside the ship, returned to the base. Many students seemed to be bored, but only Uozumi brother and sister were different, they were frolicking like fishes getting water, literally.

According to the materials Selena left behind, there was a high possibility that there existed a groundwater source near this dungeon. It was speculated that there would be a waterway in the dungeon the next day after the rain, which might lead to a hidden room that one couldn't normally go to. Whether or not they would have an exploration party incorporating Uozumi brother and sister the next day was still in consideration.

Ryuzaki Kunihiro was spending time in the strategy room after a long absence.

There were still many concerns, such as the red winged devil, but it was the gospel of Ryuzaki to relax his worrying heart under the straining atmosphere inside the class despite all that. However on the back side, one student had also been kidnapped by the enemy, so he couldn't just delightfully let it go. He hoped Kogane would at least be safe.

Ryuzaki suddenly remembered the existence of the heavy cruiser's ship log that had been left in the office desk.

It was something that Kyousuke group brought. He decided to read it once things calmed down and had completely forgotten about it. It was one of the important clues related to the former world. However, now that he knew that there were trippers in Selena's hometown, it didn't worth so much anymore.

Ryuzaki opened the logbook. Although it was the same Japanese, the style was of 70 years ago. Besides it was hard to read because of the messy handwriting.

As he flipped through the pages for a while, the handwriting had obviously

changed in the middle. This person's handwriting was a little readable.

"Umm, what is..."

There was a description that the commanding superior of the heavy cruiser became missing, as a result they were writing in the logbook in his instead. Probably it was the captain in Kyousuke group's report.

"....."

There was no particular descriptions such as crew monsterization. However, it was written that they were attacked by creatures of different world such as sandworms and goblins, and they were exhausted day by day. Although by no means an excellent writing style, as it wasn't somebody else' problem, one could on contrary truly feel the imminent reality from the indifferent reports. Despair of not knowing whether they could return to the former world. The crew who were exhausted day by day and their number reduced.

Eventually it came up to a statement that some non-commissioned officials caused a riot and they were inevitably shot to keep order within the ship.

"We would be like this we if we had taken just one more misstep..."

A shivering feeling crept up on Ryuzaki's back.

Purge to keep order changed the atmosphere inside the ship. Of course it was for the worse.

*Those who oppose the captain will be killed.* Such recognition was spreading. The gloomy atmosphere lingered, leading to a straining feeling. Those who sold flattery flocked to the captain, those who took distance, those who snitched on people whom they didn't like about signs of betrayal. It was various.

One day the captain and his group left the heavy cruiser and decided to head east. They, who were experts in naval warfare, had insufficient expertise on so-called land expeditions, but still they decided that they would only dry up there. The number of people had already been reduced to half of the initial one. It seemed that the logbook was brought to the journey properly. 1<sup>st</sup> day, 2<sup>nd</sup> day and 3<sup>rd</sup> day, only the feelings of despair and impatience grew. Even so, on the 4<sup>th</sup> day they seemed to discover artificial structures, such as defensive walls. *It is Selena's country.* Ryuzaki thought. *They had arrived as well.*

*But in that case, why was the captain rotting away in that heavy cruiser? He even bothered to come back with the logbook.*

The answer was on the next page.

From the conclusion, the soldiers of the former Japanese Navy who were transferred to this world could not receive a great welcome from the locals at the time. Approaching the walls and waving their hands, it was baptisms of cold arrows directed at them.

Because words didn't go through, there was no means to prove that they were not hostile. Furthermore, it was decisive that a soldier who fell into depression fired his rifle. Shooting to death one of the soldiers firing arrows from the top of the defensive walls, the captain and his group were considered complete enemies.

The captain and his group fled for their lives to the heavy cruiser, but they realized they didn't have long from the wounds they had received.

The pages, after a few more days further from there, ended.

“.....”

Ryuzaki closed the book with an indescribable feeling.

It was said that trippers were living in Selena's country now. In other words, there were people who were fortunate enough to not be regarded as enemies in that country, and had succeeded in receiving great protection. However, just by making a single mistake, things like those written in this logbook could naturally occur.

It was a feeling of reaffirming the danger of contact between different cultures.

*Will Kyousuke and the others do well?* There was obviously a feeling that they would be fine. It was a principle that everything in relation with Selena had been done peacefully.

However, as he was thinking, the coffin placed in the corner of the strategy room suddenly rattled.

“Uwaa.”

His voice unintentionally came out.

Harao. It was the coffin of Harao Masaki. It was quite rare for him to wake up

voluntarily.

“Ah—...”

The lid of the coffin was opened, and his body slowly lifted from inside.

“Good morning, Harao.”

“Ah—..., good morning. Thou hast disturbed me in mine slumber...”

“You got up by yourself today, didn’t you?”

“Ah—, that was the case.... Twas myself who disturbed mine slumber...”

Surprisingly, this man named Harao was such a person even when he was still a human. The reason why he was not bullied in the class, his parents were the number one wealthy people in town, his grandfather was in the city council, his paternal uncle was the director of the municipal hospital, his maternal uncle was a parliament member, it was because he came from that kind of amazing family. Unskillfully laying your hand on him and scary older brothers marched into your house. It was vicious. Even from the time as humans, it was feared as the «*curse of Harao*».

*Well, he is a good guy at heart.*

Ryuzaki considered about 90% of people who lived on the planet as «*good guy at heart*».

*Still, well, Harao is a good guy at heart.*

“Hou, Ryuzaki, the book that you have.... It woke up from its slumber of 200 years, a record of black history...”

“200 years?”

Ryuzaki with the logbook in hand, made a dubious look.

“It’s a wartime diary. It should be 70 or 80 years, isn’t it?”

“200 years.... My eyes that see through time never fail...”

“I guess the flow of time is different here in this case...”

Because Harao’s «*eyes that see through time*» was not a joke. Ryuzaki purposely put the coffin in the strategy room because he was handy for his eyes. In addition to dating, he could see the past and the future to some extent. It was not accurate enough to say future vision or prophecy, as it was said by Harao 『*Deviation of little definite factor*』, things were subjected to changes, but

it was still helpful as a guideline to make decisions.

“I will go to sleep again.... No one, must not hinder the sleep of Harao...”

Zuzuzu ... and closing the lid of the coffin with telekinesis, Harao muttered.

“Ahh, are you going to bed now? Good night.”

By the time Ryuzaki said so, snoring could be heard from inside.

*But, 200 years? If that much time have passed, there won't be any people who remembers the crew of the heavy cruiser directly.* He thought.

Those people, however, would rather rest peacefully. It was not good to dragged on the unfortunate accident in this logbook to the negotiation's situation this time. However, once things settled down, he thought that at the very least he would like to bury their souls with the same Japanese hands.

“Ryuzaki-kun, are you there!?”

This time, there was a sound of knocking on the door of the strategy room with a bang. This voice was Sakuma's. It was rare for her to make such a loud voice.

“I am, what happened?”

“Te-terrible...! I mean, it's amazing!”

Sakuma's chest, who said so and came into the strategy room, was indeed terrible and had a tremendous rampage.

However, the experienced Ryuzaki, never did look at important classmates with evil eyes.

“So, what's so terrible and amazing?”

“On the 15<sup>th</sup> underground floor, we picked up something terrible...”

“Something terrible...”

From Sakuma's words, he understood that it was not something bad. *Then, is it useful stuff?*

“All right. Let's go see.”

“Yeah, it might be better if Kuremori-kun see it too...”

*Will it possibly be useful as a part of the heavy cruiser, perhaps?*

In some cases, the renovation might be completed earlier than originally

planned. Ryuzaki left the strategy room so that he could be brought there by Sakuma.

“Utsurogi-kun, what should I do...”

The huge water manjuu in front of him said so.

The name of this huge water manjuu was Himemizu Rin. Formerly a proud idol of Jindai high-school 2<sup>nd</sup> year class 4. Body was somewhat small but overflowing with energy, Ace Sprinter that ran the 100 meters fastest in the prefecture. Healthy legs reminiscent of Thomson's Gazelle, she was once a dazzling girl like the sun, but now just a huge water manjuu.

*It is reminiscent of Shingen Mochi of Koshu Confectionery. I want to have it deliciously with brown sugar syrup and roasted soy flour.*

“Even if you say «what should I do».... What should I do?”

“I will be disqualified from the track-and-field club if I get so fat.... Even though I wanted to drop a little more body fat before this year's summer tournament...”

“It is that kind of problem?”

*Is it not literally water blisters rather than fat in the first place? This.*

Apparently, Rin who was standing watch received the rainwater and absorbed it in her body which had been gradually becoming huge as a result. As her volume increased, the part that caught water also increased, so the expansion rate was just accelerating.

Watching Rin seriously miserably murmuring, he would like to do something somehow, but the only thing Kyousuke could do for the time being was poking the surface.

“She has become quite a big deal.”

*Was he awake, Akira said so in the lantern.*

“What, what on earth ... uwaa~! Huge!!”

“Mu—, is it already time for changing shift ... uwaa~! Huge!!”

Hakuba and Selena also woke up one after another.

“Oh, Selena-chan! It was just right! Ne~e, what is this!? This is what!? What is this!?”

“Umm, I don’t really understand.”

“Uwaa! My last hope is cut off!”

Even now, while continuing to expand, Himemizu Rin screamed. Selena kept rubbing her sleepy eyes and continued talking.

“Water slime certainly has the ability to take in liquid from outside, their mode of life was to grow by discarding old waste matters. It is something like molting of crustaceans. However, It isn’t supposed to become endless like this...”

“It’s not strange for Himemizu to frequently eat until her stomach is full, I guess it’s because of that.”

“I see.”

“It’s not «*I see*».”

As usual, Rin *\*tappo n tappo\** shook and protested, but with this size it had extraordinary destructive power.

“What do I do! I have grown splendidly like this now! My girl power is in a crisis!”

“Or rather, if Selena-san’s words are correct, you can excrete the absorbed part, can’t you?”

“Wa, excretion! Please put it in a different way!”

“Well then separation.”

“Possibly I, may have to do a grand play now.”

Certainly, Rin was considerably resistant against exposing the sight of her spitting the absorbed water from her body to the public eyes (Even though it was only 4 people). However, once she had gotten this big, it might not be possible to do something like hiding from the public eyes.

While Rin was murmuring *what to do, what to do*, Akira said this kind of thing.

“Himemizu, if you can control the density of your body, can you compress your body while keeping the mass?”

“Mu~...”

Rin was bouncing *\*ponto\** and said.

“Certainly, it may be possible. I feel like I can retract my stomach...”

“You’re doing it with that image...”

Rin went 『Smalleee~r!』 with spirit and her body seemed to have shrunk a bit. She \*gun gun\* and as it was, shrank her body with all her might. Rin’s body which had swollen to the size of a small lake, slowly and gradually shrank back to its normal size.

When Rin returned to her original size, she evacuated to the bottom of the canopy so as not to take in any more water. Everyone applauded 『Ohhh—』.

“Iya~a, I was worried...”

“Well, since that state is compressing water at high-density, I think it would be better for you to withdraw the excess water later...”

Saying so, Akira further told Kyousuke.

“Kyousuke, there should be an empty water bottle in the wagon. Would you kindly try thrusting it into Himemizu?”

“Thrust in!?”

“Ahh, I understand. Akira.”

“I don’t understand!? Think about the story!?”

Kyousuke took out the empty water bottle from the wagon and approached Rin. While cold sweat was heavily dripping from her whole body, Rin slightly retreated.

For some reason, Selena was covering her face with both hands.

“Sorry Himemizu, it won’t hurt.”

“Kigya—!”

Thus the empty water bottle was thrust into Rin’s body, but immediately afterward the bottle was crushed \*kusha~\*.

“Waa...”

Indeed Kyousuke who was surprised withdrew his hand.

“As expected.”

Akira nodded.

“Himemizu’s body is currently in a state where water is compressed in high-

density. The water pressure is very high, so to speak, it is like the deep sea. If it is a metal water bottle, it could be flattened by the water pressure. If you combine with Kyousuke in this state, Kyousuke will be burdened as well.”  
“Is that the only thing you have to say about thrusting a water bottle into a girl’s body?”

Spitting out the flattened water bottle, Rin gave a sulking voice.

“If you could shoot compressed water, you could use it like a water cutter. Depending on how you use it, it may be a fairly powerful ability.”

“N—, well, that’s because I wiped the image of «excretion» from my mind...”

When Himemizu Rin’s new ability was discovered, the passing shower had been weakening gradually. The sun had already set, peeking through the clouds was a starry sky, then it became a story where they advanced a little more further east from the rock.

In this wasteland there was little means to secure water. At the time, they had secured the necessary amount of drinking water, but they were still saving up water in Rin’s body and Rin had to go through the journey in the compressed state in case of emergencies.

“To let others drink water stored in my body, what kind of play is it now...”

Rin’s muttering, everyone at the place wonderfully pretended not to have heard.

Then, after about 5 days.

The treatment of Rin Hard continued. According to Selena, water slime’s mode of life was *『to take in liquid from outside and drain out waste product collectively』*. If they were to believe those words, it was possible to remove impurities from liquid and filter water to a clean state.

And so, it was actually possible.

Rainwater accumulated in Rin’s body, with her life activities (wouldn’t dare to describe as physiological phenomenon) fine dust and micro-organisms were removed, and it was decided to serve to the party members as «*Surarin’s delicious water*». It was a terrible story.

“I already have a life as a water supply tank...”

Rin who was in the state of high-density compressed water (which was named **Compression Form** by Akira), said so with an open depressed look.

“W–well well, Himemizu. Don’t be so depressed.”

“No, I feel depressed...”

“Isn’t it good if it’s useful.”

When Kyousuke said so and tried to soothe her, Rin suddenly turned around and bit him (metaphorically).

“It’s not good! I don’t think it’s good at all! Imagine a little Utsurogi-kun! Utsurogi-kun’s daughter! Your little sister, girlfriend or wife! Ah, but I hope it’s girlfriend if possible!”

“O–ou. Girlfriend?”

“Ah, no. As expected it’s safe to imagine me as your daughter or younger sister please. That, your daughter or younger sister give their body fluid to others! Seem unpleasant? Is it unpleasant! It is unpleasant, isn’t it! I may not be able to become a bride anymore...!”

“Th–that, sorry...”

“Do not apologize!”

It had been a long time since she was called a triangular corner, and now she had to carry the nickname of water supply tank as well, it seemed quite serious. If anything, the water supply tank rather than the triangular corner seemed to be a fine artifact, but certainly it was unpleasant to use her own body fluid as drinking water for others.

According to Selena, the liquid that the slime temporarily absorbed into the body was only water stored and not the body fluid of the slime itself, but since it was similar to how one spitted out water contained in their mouth, it was still unpleasant after all.

“Uu, I hate it.... This treatment is too sloppy...”

At last it became a tearful voice.

Rin and Kyousuke also, how many time had it been, were watching the baggage nearing the shadow of a rocky place. Five days to the East. It was about time that Selena’s country could be seen soon. The three people, Selena, Akira and Hakuba, were going to explore a little bit quickly.

“I, even though I am a girl...”

“Ahh, that’s right. Himemizu is a girl after all.”

“Utsurogi-kun.... You are not listening to the story properly?”

“Eh?”

Although Rin’s body didn’t have eyes at all, he could still feel some cold gaze.

“Which part of me you say is still a girl!? Ah, sorry, this question is troublesome!?”

“W–well, soft spots, is it...”

“Hou! Well that would be fine! Thank you!”

Still seemed to be unconvinced somewhere, Rin said so and her mood improved just a little.

“Iya~a, well, that’s fine, but.... Having lived as a slime for a month now, I will normally lose my confidence.”

“As a girl?”

“Well, originally, I wasn’t such a girlish character.”

Himemizu Rin. Contrary to her name, she wasn’t like a princess and not dignified in particular. Although she was the one who seized the top of the class cast from her adorable appearance and sociable character, it certainly was not a character emphasizing «*girls’ quality*». And when talking like this, she had a range of hobbies that could match boys perfectly with the topics of manga and games, and she could also respond frankly to jokes that were not explicit. So well, the girls who didn’t think well about such a girl had also made up cruel rumors about her.

However, to say Rin was not like a girl, there was no feeling like that.

“Well, I think you’re properly a girl to be worrying about that.”

“Ha~a. Is that so~...”

“I think I will decide not to drink Himemizu’s water if it’s seriously unpleasant. Are you dissatisfied?”

“Hmm. What shall I do. For the time being the current dissatisfaction is somewhat refreshed by talking to Utsurogi-kun.”

“Really...”

The conversation broke off there. Once the conversation stopped, it was a

little awkward.

“Well, if it becomes a new strength of Utsurogi-kun, that is also good.”

“Mine?”

“Yup. Because, we have to thank the red winged devil without fail?”

Was it because Rin was stunned by that devil’s hand once, her tone was somewhat strong.

Rin seemed to be seeking power these past few days. There was times it could be felt even before the battle with the red winged devil. However, the tendency had become even stronger since that defeat. Perhaps, she was still thinking that Full Cross’s defeat was her fault.

“But how do you use that power?”

“Yea—h, for example...”

“For example?”

“Make your opponents drink delicious water.”

“Yup.”

“Reform them.”

“.....”

“Yes, I’m sorry!”

Rin had regained her original condition. It was no good to push yourself too hard, Kyousuke himself knew this well.

“Utsurogi-saan! Rin-saan!”

Just around that time, Selena straddling Hakuba came back while waving her hand. Kyousuke also stood up and raised one hand.

“O~oh, how did it go?”

“Ah, a little ahead of this rocky place, a long wall could be seen at the edge of the horizon.”

“It was something like the Great Wall of China.”

Hakuba and Akira were explaining. *Finally? We seem to have arrived.*

It was almost as scheduled since it was the 5<sup>th</sup> day since they left the base. By the time of returning, the heavy cruiser’s renovation should have been almost completed. However, he was still worried about whether the red winged devil

would attack the base during that time. As fast as possible, he wanted to obtain cooperation and went back to the place.

For the foreseeable future, they would approach the wall and try to talk to the humans. *Let's have a meal before that*, saying so, he spread out the preserved food in the wagon.

"You cannot fight with an empty stomach!"

"Even though fighting is bad..."

While exchanging such words, Kyousuke watched Selena.

"(She herself said she could be a diplomatic material)"

A part of her body was brought into contact with Kyousuke, and Rin talked only with her mind. Kyousuke nodded.

In other words, she meant that she had a noble status as it was. If Selena skillfully used her position and stood on this side, the prospect of negotiation can be settled. At least for Kyousuke and the others now, their chances of success wasn't high.

Probably after several hours, they would come in contact with the humans. Kyousuke swallowed his smoked meat.

The smoked meat that fell down from his throat was caught and eaten secretly by Rin.

What is Selena's true identity! Will the negotiations with the humans surely succeed?

# Chapter 24: Earth Splitting Knight General

On the West side of the royal capital, beyond the defensive walls, existed a vast plain that was barren making it difficult to grow crops there. In addition, the place were inhabited by many monsters such as goblins and orcs, thus it was predicted to take considerable labor to develop, but still Selena's mother made a decision to carry it out.

It was a story when Selena was 10 years old.

In place of her father who was busy flying around all over the places dealing with diplomatic relations as usual, Selena and Kyousuke's mother took them to the pioneering plain for inspections. Although there were many escorts, it was still an area with relatively many dangers. Their mother told Selena and her brother never to leave her side.

But well, in conclusion, Selena strayed away from the group.

A group of orcs surrounded Selena who wandered the plain alone. Although their ferocity and individual fighting ability had been attenuated since the conclusion of the Dark Beast Disturbance, orcs were still a terrible enemy for mankind. It was still more than enough for a 10 years old little girl with no power.

\**Gata gata*\* as Selena was shivering in fear, the one who came to her rescue was a female knight in her prime. [Notes]

A sword thrust cladding a tornado, turning the orcs into minced meat. One that could only be reached with power deviating from human knowledge, secret technique of thrusting sword. The female knight who easily ended the time of fear, embrace Selena and said.

『I have been looking for you. Now, let's go back to your mother.』

The speed of the knight who ran off carrying her is faster than any kind of horse and carriage that Selena knew of.

“That was my encounter with shishou...”

The story that Selena told seriously, all who present listened to it doubtfully.

Kyousuke group, even in Full Cross didn't have the confidence to kill an army of Okumura. It was probably impossible for that red winged devil as well. A knight who ran faster than a horse, it was already at a level that horses were unnecessary. No matter how one thought about it, it could only be said that she was exaggerating.

Selena's shishou, appointed as the guardian of the western part of the kingdom, was said to have been awarded with the title of «*Knight General*». Her unique title was the «*Earth Splitting Knight General*». It was not a metaphorical expression, she seemed to really break the ground in one stroke.

Kyousuke group who finished their meal started heading straight toward the wall. As originally expected that they could arrive before the day got late, the wall gradually spread out in front of them.

“If she is such a scary person, we must take care not to anger her...”

Rin muttered.

“By the way, how many were they?”

“How many was it. I feel like it exceeded 30 when I met them.... Err? I wonder if it was over?”

To Hakuba's question, Selena on top of the saddle started counting by folding her fingers. Hakuba's expression was getting more and more cloudy. *What kind of rude things are you thinking? Well, I can imagine. She can run faster than a horse, so there's no hope for Hakuba even if he decides to run away.*

Kyousuke took out a telescope from the wagon and put it on his eye socket. Regarding the fact that he didn't seem to have any eyes, Selena said [There is something called a conceptual organ...] and began a lengthy explanation, but he let it in one ear and out the other. Of course, there was neither a right ear nor a left ear.

On the wall, knights wearing light armor were standing on guard. It was undeniably humans' figure. They were the same Caucasians as Selena, and their clothing were not the familiar kind of Japan, but just witnessing the appearance of multiple humans moving, there was somehow a strange emotion.

“Utsurogi-kun, me too! Show it to me!”

Since Rin came along, he lent her the telescope.

“Oh—, it’s humans...! That’s amazing, it’s humans yo~o!”

“Err, I am also a human though...”

On the saddle, Selena was pouting her lips unhappily.

“Kyousuke, the negotiation is basically left to you.”

Akira who jumped out of the cramped lantern, said so.

“Me? I’m not very good with words. Isn’t it better to leave it to Akira?”

“I will interpose if it’s necessary, but I’m not qualified as I will say unnecessary stuffs. You know right?”

“Ahh, yeah. I know I know.”

“Also, in this negotiation, it should be somewhat stupidly honest like you to easily gain a favorable impression of the other party.”

*If you say that far, it’s not a problem to take the negotiation seat myself. But there’s a little pressure. My stomach is starting to hurt a bit.*

“Speaking of which, the negotiation with female general-san was to move the army, but is it okay?”

“What is?”

“According to the story, the army staying in the defensive walls is a force to prevent the attacks of monsters coming from outside the walls.”

Even though she was the person in charge, as expected, it was doubtful whether the war potential could be moved at the discretion of a single general.

“Ah—, yeah. That’s right...”

To Kyousuke’s words, Selena pondered a little.

“Is Selena-chan’s country a monarchy? Does the King have the authority to move the army?”

“It is a constitutional monarchy. The monarch principle is to cut down the authority of the ruler.”

“Oh, quite modern.”

“In other words, there is a possibility that it takes considerable time and effort to move one army. We can’t expect too much.”

With Akira's words, the conversation ended right after with a dampened mood.

The defensive walls got even closer and it became possible to see the figures of the knights on patrol. The knights noticed them, they understood that some people were going down the stairs for reporting. Accompanied by tension and a hurried atmosphere. Naturally, the atmosphere over here became tense as well. Because it was actually a «*first contact*», they would have to be cautious. Some of the knights pointed loaded arrows over here. There were also figures of magicians holding their canes and preparing to chant.

“Selena-san.”

“Yes, I understand.”

Selena swallowed her saliva and carried the spear aloft on horseback. Here, her words were meant to deliver their good intents.

“We are not enemies! Please lower your bows and tell the knight general! Your disciple, Selenade has returned!”

When she gave a loud voice, the knights who had nocked the arrows lowered their bows according to her words. It seemed they were trying to confirmed the girl who carried a spear while holding the reins of a unicorn. Apparently, both the knights and magicians seemed to have recognized the name of Selena. *I mean, is Selena's real name Selenade? I didn't know.* To Rin's response, she also didn't seem to have heard.

However, the words that she gave after that were even more surprising.

“I will say it again! Please tell the knight general! The first princess of the kingdom, Princess Selenade has returned!”

“EEEEEEEEEH!?”

Thanks to the startling voices that resounded intruding in somewhat, Princess Selenade had to say the same line again.

“Because, even if I said it, you wouldn't have believed me...”

When pursuing why she had been hiding that, Selena being somewhat dissatisfied, pouted her lips and said so.

*First Princess Selenade.* That was her identity. A noble, or possibly a royalty? Although he had made expectations especially up to there, she still turned out to be more of a big-shot than imagined. From the attitude of the other party, it seemed that a large-scale search had already begun, it was nothing but luck that they hadn't run into such a search party. If they had encountered them on the way, the circumstances would have been more complicated. However, even if it was said that the princess had returned after much troubles, Kyousuke group and Selena as well wasn't allowed inside the defensive walls. The security of the knights was strict, even so, to not make Her Highness Princess standing around inconveniently like that, luxurious chair for aristocrat had been carried out from inside and Selena was sitting demurely on it.

"Ah, please give chairs to them as well."

As Selena said, one of the knights saluted and carried out 3 more chairs. Indeed, they thought that it was impossible to prepare a chair for Hakuba and instead brought out a canopy bed. Hakuba even while having an apologetic look, put his hoof on the bed. But his horn had too much power and tore the curtain, his face turned pale.

"Waaaa! It's a fluffy chair ... AAAAHHH!?"

The moment Rin placed her body on the chair, the leg of the chair gave in and it broke.

"Because Hime Mizu is currently in a state of compressing a large amount of water. Your weight is amazing."

While Akira explained calmly, he burned the luxurious chair.

"Now, I feel that we are doing a lot of rude things, is it okay...?"  
"It's okay. Because I am a princess...!"

Gripping her fist, Selena said with a triumphant look. Glancing at Rin who timidly sat in the chair that was carried out again (it didn't break this time), Kyousuke again asked Selena.

"I mean, even though you are the first princess, why did you apply for the investigation team? Or became a knight apprentice?"  
"It's not really so ever since my father and mother's generation.... The royal

family of this country greatly respects the deeds of arms. Originally, It was a Grand Duchy at the westernmost end of the Central Empire. It was a country that stopped monsters approaching from the West and armies of unidentified identity.”

*It is already a story of 200 years ago.* Said Selena.

“To send one of the two siblings of the royal family so calmly to a dangerous place like that, somehow I can’t really understand...”

“Iya~a, once it was supposed to be a safe investigation but.... It is true that I volunteered for a dangerous place...”

“But, as Selena-san is the first princess, you will succeed the throne, won’t you?”

“I wonder about that. Kyousu ... ah no, my younger brother is excellent, so I think my brother will succeed though...”

*Or rather, we are treating the child of the royal family so visibly careless like this.* However, thinking up to there, Kyousuke shook his head. He felt that thinking of Selena as the «First Princess» more than necessary seemed synonymous with thinking of her as a political tool.

No, even so, Kyousuke himself couldn’t wipe out his discomfort.

Selena had told Kyousuke and the others various stories.

Although her father was known to be a Japanese, but it would be an entirely different story when talking about the King of this country. It seemed that he had been actively searching for people of the former world that had been transferred to this world and protected them if necessary. However, whether it applied to the case of Kyousuke and the others this time was a difficult question. After all, there was no precedent in changing one’s appearance to a monster at the time of transference.

Standing at attention, the knights and magicians didn’t lower their vigilance, they seemed to be feeling doubtful about the really friendly exchange of Princess Selenade and the Monster Corps. Although the situation could be roughly guessed from the contents of the conversation, nevertheless, it would still be something like half-convinced.

“Thank you for waiting, Your Highness.”

One of the knights softly whispered to Selena.

“Her Excellency General has arrived.”

“Thank you for waiting, Your Highness.”

One of the knights softly whispered to Selena.

“Her Excellency General has arrived.”

“Ah, yes. Thank you very much.”

Listening to those words, Kyousuke fixed his posture and appearance. When he turned his eyes to the gate, \*gachari\*, \*gachari\* there was a sound, and the figure of a woman in her prime showed up. Reddish brown hair tied together. Having sharp facial features giving the impression like an unsheathed blade, she wore an outfit with appearance just like a *『female knight』*, however, a painful-looking scar remained on her face.

It was so impressive that Rin said *『It looks like an evolution form of Tsurugin』*. She certainly resembled Kensaki.

However, the difference in intimidating air was staggering. Even though she was by no means tall, even though she wasn't that big and brawny, every-time she walked, the armor clanked and it seeped out..., *Aura? Combat Power?* At any rate, something like *«Fierce»* which was difficult to put into words, was *\*biri biri\** transmitted to Kyousuke and the others' bodies.

*If Kensaki is a «Public Morals Committee Member», then she is ... no, «General»? Just as her title says.*

“For now, welcome back. Your Highness. Please forgive me for greeting you like this.”

“Ah, no.... It is my wish to sit here with them.... I'm sorry to have caused you worries. Master.”

“All that matters is that you're safe. If anything was to happen to you, I would have performed harakiri on the spot.”

Looking at the knight general who exchanged calm words with Selena, Kyousuke for the first time had the mind to re-examine her.

The general, just like that, glanced over and turned her line of sight to Kyousuke and the others. It made them involuntarily jumped. Rin and everyone were taken aback and had fallen down from their chairs with momentum.

“Now, are you guys the ones who escorted Her Highness Princess? I would like to thank you. In the matter this time, as one would expected, Her Majesty the Queen also has been worrying.”

The female general with her armor clattering, talked to them in a somewhat informal tone.

“From skeleton to slime, wisp to unicorn...? According to the report it is said that you can speak human language?”

“Ah, umm. Yes, I can speak.”

“Mu, it’s more fluent than I thought...”

Kyousuke glanced at the other members. Akira appeared to have maintained a calm heart, but the force of his flame was weaker than usual. Rin was desperate to fix the fallen chair, and talking about Hakuba, he was pointing a little sad eyes to the female general. *Although she is surely beautiful, there is no need to be that downhearted....[Notes]*

Hakuba as it was, knocked twice on the canopy bedpost. *What signal? Do you mean to say that it is the code for experienced people? Totally unnecessary information.*

“No, although it’s the situation where I want to give a generous hospitality to you guys as people who have protected Her Highness Princess, guests like you guys are the first time...”

The general made a difficult face while scratching her head.

“Even elves and lizard-men are different... It is the first time to have intelligent monsters. Moreover, you can communicate with us through language. Honestly, it is confusing.”

“Ah–ahh no. Umm...”

“Master, Utsurogi-san and everyone are trippers.”

Instead of Kyousuke whose mind was in disorder, Selena cut to the chase. She was a reliable princess. The female general looked at her visibly surprised.

“Trippers? They are?”

“That’s right. As far as I listen to their story, they are from the same hometown as the people who are being protected by my father and the kingdom.”

“But I have been told that there was no such monsters in the hometown of His Majesty the King?”

“At the time of transference, our appearances changed.”

Although it was only speculation, Kyousuke answered it clearly.

Kyousuke decided to explain their situation in detail. While talking, his tongue gradually warmed up. Themselves, a group unit called a school class were on a trip when the incident happened, additionally their appearances had been turned into monsters at the time of the transference. The female general without unsparingly denying him, listened to the story carefully.

Next, Kyousuke explained things since they met Selena. They rescued her who was being chased by a wilderness worm and sheltered her in the class. Then they battled with the «*Red Winged Devil*» that had annihilated Selena’s investigation team and one of their classmates was kidnapped.

The female general narrowed her eyes at the phrase «*Red Winged Devil*» and took confirmation with Selena.

When Selena nodded that it was no mistake, the knights and magicians who were standing at attention around them suddenly became noisy.

“Eh, wh–what? What what?”

Rin gave an anxious voice.

“If it is a «*Red Winged Devil*», our people have also confirmed it.”

The female general looked up at the sky and said so.

“Is it true!?”

“Yes. Having red wings and black armor, it was an evil spirit-like enemy with terrible strength and magic attack power. The day after we lost contact with Her Highness Princess’ unit, this wall was also attacked. Although I managed to repulse them somehow, 2 out of 3 managed to escape.”

“Th–three!?”

Kyousuke involuntarily stood up and raised his voice. Surprised Selena opened her eyes wide, Rin, Hakuba, and Akira also were unable to hide their

astonishment. Was Kyousuke's reaction unexpected, the female general also was slightly stunned, then she answered like this.

"Ah, right. It is three. They named themselves as «*Pawn*».... As a matter of fact, this side also have suffered considerable damage. Apparently it's better to tell you guys a detailed story."

Saying so, the general urged all the people concerned to stand up.

"Let's talk in my room. As expected, the sunlight is too strong outside."

"Ah, umm. Is that good?"

"Don't worry. I was wary of you for being monsters for the time being, but it appears that there are complicated circumstances, also, even if you guys try anything funny, I can shut you down in less than 2 seconds."

Without being especially tense, the female general calmly said so. Perhaps, it would be just like what she said.

However, it wasn't the confident speech and conduct of the knight general that dominated Kyousuke's heart right now. It was the fact that there were at least three «*Red Winged Devil*». The power of the devil who had that absolute fighting ability, was never the only one.

"Ne~e, «*Pawn*» is a chess piece, isn't it?"

Rin spoke a few words.

"Ahh, it is also the weakest piece. However, the word «*Pawn*» those guys introduced themselves as may not necessarily have the same meanings as chess."

Akira's voice who said so was also a little tense. Certainly, that devil spoke the word «*King*» just before flying away. Pawn of the King. There was absolutely no definitive evidence, but it could be said to be enough to make an unpleasant imagination.

The strength that the red winged devil held, was it really the strength of a mere «*vanguard*»?

"Let's hear it for references but Hino-kun, how many pawns there are in all?"

"It's 8 pieces per side."

The cool words of Akira, echoed in this place along with a chilling feel.

Apparently the defensive wall itself seemed to be a long fortress spanning from north to south. Kyousuke group was guided to a private room of the knight general in one corner of the fortress. In a room with a calm atmosphere like a study, the walls were decorated with large spears and tower shields nearing 3 meters. Next to that was a portrait of middle-aged hooked nose man. *The general's husband —— he is a little too old for that, so her father?* By the way, regarding the large amount of books on the bookshelf, half of them were occupied by chivalric romance and love romance novels, Selena secretly taught him. Despite being taught secretly, the female general seemed to have heard and directed a meaning smile at them.

“It’s bad to say general forever. I am Carol. Best regards.”

“A~ah, no, it’s Utsurogi.”

“Utsurogi.... Do you write it as «travel mood»?”

“That’s Utsurigi, isn’t it...”

The female general Carol seemed to have Japanese knowledge to the extent that such a mistake could be made. If so, credibility came out also in the story that this country protected some Japanese people.

Trying to drink the tea that Carol brewed, Kyousuke stopped his hand. *If I was to drink tea here, wouldn’t that left a stain on this high class sofa I’m sitting on right now.*

“Utsurogi-kun! I will catch everything!”

“No, umm, yeah.... Indomitable, Himemizu...”

For Akira’s side, rather than indomitable it seemed more like impudent, he was perfectly leaving burn marks on the high class sofa.

“Speaking of which, because you’re a skeleton, you will spill if you drink tea.... It is quite difficult to accommodate a monster...”

“Ah, it’s okay. I will handle it all! It looks delicious with sweet confectionary... ouchhh~!”

The gluttonous high spirit slime was pinched with all his might.

“Well good. Let’s talk. First of all it is information sharing about the «Red

*Winged Devil».*”

Carol talked about the «*Red Winged Devil*» that had previously attacked this fortress.

There were three devils. Additionally, they were said to have led monsters such as imps and ghouls as infantry. Coincidentally like Kyousuke group, the devils were referred to as red winged devils, and they seemed to have slaughtered the knights and magicians with their overwhelming fighting ability. Unfortunately, on that day Carol was a little away from the fortress to welcome guests from the Royal Capital, and her arrival at the scene was delayed. Nevertheless, it was said that once she had finally arrived, she destroyed one of the devils with fierce god-like power. As one of their commanders was defeated, the enemy unceremoniously withdrew.

“The strength of this fortress, is it enough to exceed the attacks of those three devils...”

As Akira said so, Carol shook her head.

“I would say. We suffered considerable damage. It’s to the extent that even if ordinary knights and magicians gathered together, they would still be unable to compete.”

*And, to say something like that, is it because she herself is aware that she isn’t ordinary?*

Kyousuke, clenching his fist, looked directly at Carol. *If it’s her, she will be able to contend with Red Wing evenly or more than that.*

“Carol-san, will you cooperate with us?”

“Yea?”

“There is a possibility that those guys will come to our base as well. And also, bringing along some «number».”

They finally cut to the main issue.

Now, Ryuzaki and the others were doing renovation work of the heavy cruiser as a mean to escape the base. However, five days had already passed since Red Wing attacked the base. It was no wonder when Red Wing’s hand would extend over there again.

Furthermore, the situation was more serious than originally assumed. «*Pawn*»

as the devils had self-proclaimed, and 3 of them at that. Then, he couldn't think that the number of Red Wings to attack the base would be just 1.

If the knight general in front of them was to lend her power even just a bit.

"Unfortunately, I cannot do that."

With a cup of tea in one hand, Carol frankly said.

"Such, Master! How come?!"

"Please calm down Your Highness. If you comprehend the story so far, you will understand. This fortress line also does not know when it will be attacked by those guys."

The fortress had suffered considerable human casualties, there was already no reserve capacity to send reinforcements to Kyousuke and the others. Not to mention about borrowing the hands of Carol herself. Just like Full Cross to 2<sup>nd</sup> year class 4, she was the trump card to fight against powerful enemies. If Ryuzaki and the others could finish repairing the heavy cruiser as soon as possible. And his classmates could get out of the base before the attack of Red Wing came, there would be no longer a need to borrow the power of the knights here. But, it was a very slim hope.

"Sorry. Utsurogi. Even though you have saved Her Highness Princess."

Carol, did she sympathize with the feelings of such Kyousuke, even so she again expressed her refusal.

"Master, can you listen to me if I use my name?"

"In spite of your words, Your Highness, regarding the war potential management of this fortress line, I have been delegated full authority from Their Majesties. Of course the approval of the Parliament is also necessary for matter related to official operation..."

Also the matter this time was an emergency case, so Carol told them she couldn't heed their request.

Selena who stood up, sat back down with a frustrated face. There was no lies in the words she had said that her name was carrying diplomatic value. Possibly, if this fortress had yet to be attacked by the red winged devils, Carol might have readily accepted Kyousuke and the others' request.

However, the situation was bad.

“I’m sorry.... Utsurogi-san ... everyone...”

Selena, gripping the hem of her clothes, squeezed out some words.

“Ah, yeah. It’s not Selena-chan’s fault in particular...”

Without much strength in her voice, Rin said. *Yes, regarding this matter, it isn’t her fault at all.*

“I do not know if it will be a consolation, but if you guys wish, I promise to protect you on this fortress line. Once you return to that base of yours, it will be no problem if you bring your friends here. If you have about 40 monsters, well, I will be able to shelter you somehow.”

That was the maximum concession that knight general Carol could give. At the time when the red winged devil attacked, if they could receive protection from her, a mighty trump card, there would be nothing more reassuring. However, if he was to return to the base from here, it would take 3 days at the very least. If they were to move with everyone from there, it seemed to take about one week including the preparations. The same with waiting for the renovation of the heavy cruiser to be completed, there was no guarantee that they would not get attacked during that time. As time went by, that base and the wide wasteland would not be safe.

“It will be sunset soon. You’d better stay overnight here. If you return to the base in a hurry, I can also lend you a fast horse.... Ah no, yeah.”

As her eyes met with Hakuba’s, Carol’s words became a little ambiguous.

“Let’s prepare the rooms. For the unicorn also, it won’t be the stable but a proper one. As expected, you cannot stay in the same room as Her Highness Princess, but I don’t mind letting you talk late if you call me as well.”

Saying that much, knight general Carol left the room. Probably, she was going to prepare the bedrooms at once.

This negotiation was not a failure. It could be said that they succeeded in obtaining cooperation.

However, beyond being unable to obtain direct reinforcements, the

unspeakable ominous identity of those Red Wings and those connected with them had brought about a heavy silence. *It is frustrating that there is no way to convey it to Ryuzaki and the others.*

“After all, it may be better to take a fast horse and return to the base first thing tomorrow morning.”

Akira muttered.

“Oi, what about me?”

“Hakuba can stay here. Since it’s probably safe. Even if it is said that Hakuba’s pace is quite fast, it probably is not as fast as a battle-trained horse here. Kyousuke can get on properly and have the horse gallop straight ... well, if we can arrive in 2 days it would be most satisfactory.”

“There is only that, or...”

Kyousuke also nodded. First of all, it was most important to convey the information obtained here to Ryuzaki and the others. If they reached this fortress line, safety would be guaranteed. That alone could be said to be a considerable step forward. It was also a country where trippers lived and might also have clues to return to the former world.

“Uu, I’m sorry.... I, in the most important place...”

“That’s why Selena-chan is not bad...”

When Rin hit Selena’s back \*pon pon\*, 『Gofuu』 there was a sound like air being beaten out of her lung, and Selena grandly choked.

After a while, the rooms were ready and Carol returned. All of them, while praying for the safety of the base, decided to heal the fatigue of the journey for the time being.

The incident that was bound to happen, finally happened that night.

What happens that evening? Will the base be safe!?

# Chapter 25: Night Raid

“It has advanced considerably more than planned.”

When the sun had already set, Ryuzaki said that while overlooking the heavy cruiser deck. No, the name of heavy cruiser was already incorrect. Since the renovation had progressed so far, it would be more correct to call it a heavy land-warship.

The renovation of the heavy cruiser was progressing at a pace greatly exceeding the original schedule. One of the reason being not only his classmates but the groups of monsters such as goblins and skeletons helped out as well, another was that the work was being done voluntarily in a harmonious atmosphere just like preparation for the cultural festival.

However, the best help was the large engine that Sakuma group had found at the bottom of the dungeon.

In the lower part of the dungeon, many metal golems had inhabited. The metal that can be obtained from the remnants of those golems had always been regarded as important resources in the renovation of the heavy cruiser, but Sakuma group discovered the power reactor of that golem. Its owner, the Golem, had already stopped functioning, but it seemed that it was quite large, and the size of its prime mover was also considerable.

In the first place, Kuremori seemed to be planning to install on the heavy cruiser a prime mover that was powered by these golems' power reactors. Since it was obtained as it was in kind, the journey had advanced a lot. Although it required magical power as a power source, there were many students who could supply it.

The work was smooth.

At the moment, Kuremori was doing work to connect the installed prime mover to the shaft. In this area, the dexterous hands of Gofunkawahara and the goblins were borrowed, then some more students who were well-informed about machines to some extent had been gathered. Other students had

returned to the base.

Once this work was completed, it seemed that the heavy cruiser would be able to «move» for the time being. Of course tasks such as reinforcing the strength of the entire ship were as much as a mountain, but as long as it was moved as it was, it wouldn't take so long.

“Ryuzaki, the night is getting chilly debuu.”

Okumura came calling from behind, so Ryuzaki looked back.

“Well, that’s right. I, because I am a lizard-man, I thought that I was a cold-blooded animal but it seems somewhat like a warm-blooded animal.”

“Because it’s a dragon and not a lizard debu? It is said that dinosaurs were warm-blooded animals debu.”

“That is, even if they’re called reptiles, they’re closer to birds it seems.”

Okumura as well as Ryuzaki, were here as escort guards in case this heavy cruiser was attacked by monsters like wilderness worms. The same was true for Okumura’s good ogre Zeku.

“I wonder if Utsurogi group are doing well debuu?”

It was five days ago that Utsurogi Kyousuke left the base with Selena. Soon, they would arrive at Selena’s hometown and request for cooperation. However, going at this pace, it seemed that the renovation would have been done to some extent before reinforcements could arrived.

Nevertheless, because they needed the strength to fight that terrible «*Red Winged Devil*», the help request itself wasn’t wasted at all. If it was possible, he wanted to finish the renovation quickly and then joined up with Kyousuke group.

While Ryuzaki was looking at the night sky on the deck, suddenly, he saw some shadow flitting through the corner of his field of vision.

“Hmm...?”

Chasing the shadow with his eyes. That thing, it flew at a tremendous speed, heading for the rocky place where the bow pointed to. That shadow was not the only one. It seemed to be bringing along a lot of flying things as well.

No way, there was that kind of feelings.

“Ryuzaki!”

Okumura shouted and jumped off from the deck.

“At last, they’ve come debuu!”

“Damn, at such timing...!”

*It’s the red winged devil. No doubt. Right now, there are more than 30 students at the base.* Ryuzaki also jumped from the deck and ran together with Okumura. Did he guess this incident, Zeku jumped off immediately and chased after them.

“The war potential of the base is...”

“Although there are Asuka and Sakuma ... but, the opponent is someone whom Sakuma’s magic didn’t get through at all...!”

*At least, please stay safe until we get there.*

Grinding his teeth, Ryuzaki thought so and desperately ran across the wasteland.

“...Inugami-san, what happened?”

In the dining room, \*pikuri\* moving her ears with a twitch, Inugami Hibiki gazed toward the corridor, seeing her like that, Sakuma asked. With her nose twitching \*hiku hiku\*, her appearance that made a grim expression was exactly like a dog itself rather than a werewolf. Akai Asuka sitting little distance away, after gazing at Inugami’s state, 『Leave her alone』 muttered. Inugami glared back at such Akai.

Inugami Hibiki was a stray of a lone wolf among the class. And incidentally, she could be said to be the only natural enemy of Akai Asuka. Actually, although there were a couple of students in the class who could give opinions to Akai, apart from that, it was only Inugami that she clearly «avoided».

Sakuma, a close friend of Akai, also honestly felt that matters relating to Inugami was difficult to deal with. However, when they sat next to each other on the field trip bus, she gave away her extra chewing gum, so Sakuma also thought that she was in fact not that bad of a child. *It’s time for our class to unite now. I have to actively become friends with Inugami who is a stray, and add her to our circle.* Thinking that way, she tried to have her meals as close as

possible.

That Inugami, unusually was staring at the corridor with a grim expression.

“...Come.”

“C—come? What?”

“That guy’s, friends...!”

Saying so, Inugami unraveled the scarf of her sailor uniform.

“Eh, I—Inugami-san?”

The surrounding students also seemed to have noticed her strange actions. Although people were looking over here, Inugami didn’t care about it, and then her uniform, skirt, even her underwear, she mercilessly took them all off.

“EEEEEEH!? I—Inugami-sann!? H—here is no good! No good! Here’s the dining roomm!!”

As cheers and commotion were rising from the surroundings, Sakuma picked up all the clothes that had been thrown away and ran up to her. However, Inugami in her birthday suit put her hands on the floor becoming on all fours, and gave her a growl like a beast.

“GUUU~U~U~U~U~URURURURURU...!”

A beautiful coat of white silver grew from her whole body, the body of Inugami who was already slim to begin with, changed to an even more slender and supple shape. It was complete beast transformation. Inugami who became a silver wolf of about 2 meters in length, as it was, raised a roar, kicked off the desk of the dining room and the dishes, then went straight to the corridor. The cheers and commotion turned into screams in a blink of an eye.

“Inugami-san...”

Sakuma murmured dumbfounded.

“I have been wondering if she didn’t tear her clothes every-time she performed complete beast transformation.... She has been diligently taking it off every-time...”

“No, Sachi, that’s not the point.”

\**Bishi*\*, and unusually Akai put in a tsukkomi.

“Go a little after me, because I’ll go after that guy.”

“Inugami-san?”

“Yeah. I said it. «Come»?”

In response to that word, Sakuma was surprised. Last time, when the red winged devil was attacking, it was Inugami who jumped at the enemy first. It was unknown what her reason was, but she had a sense of smell capable enough to perceive the enemy’s attack.

However, Inugami who was a lone wolf and lacked coordination, usually listless and not showing any fragment of motivation, only during the attack of the red winged devil that she forgot herself (she still took off her clothes properly though) and just rushed out, it was incomprehensible to Sakuma.

*No, now such a thing is fine. The important thing is to help Inugami.*

“Kagoi-kun! Kensaki-san! Also Uozumi-kun and Nekomiya-san come together with us! Everyone else, fortify the entrance of the dining room!”

For the time being, Sakuma called out to the combat personnel and jumped out of the dining room following after Inugami.

*If that red winged devil really came, will we be able to win?*

“Saa-chan, it maybe none of my business but.”

Even at such a time, Nekomiya talked in a pretentious way.

“Isn’t it better for us to escape to the heavy cruiser instead? Has it been able to move already?”

“Yeah, I’m also thinking about that...”

“Either way, that guy may already be in the corridor now, we cannot secure the escape route.”

Uozumi muttered really annoyed.

“For the time being, we have to do something about that bouncing wolf!”

“No but, it was a sight for sore eyes.”

Kensaki and Kagoi also expressed their opinions.

When they went straight to the entrance, Inugami was already in battle. The enemy was not just one. Numerous flying monsters like devils with small wings were flitting about. Among them, a man wearing a black armor with red wings

was standing with his arms folded.

“What are these guys...?!”

“Imp ... is it? They seem to have brought quite a number.”

Kensaki and Nekomiya made a voice full of tension. Kagoi and Uozumi’s line of sight was directing toward the red winged devil.

“That guy.... He is a little different from what we saw last time.”

“Is he a different person...?”

In response to that word, Sakuma also turned her attention to the devil. Certainly, the one who attacked the base last time, that devil who drove Kyousuke group powerless at that time, had a slightly different face. *Another person, is it a different individual? Could it be there are still other enemies with that kind of combat ability?*

Inugami shook off the clinging imps, tore, bit and ran straight to the red winged devil.

“GURU~U~O~OOU~!!”

The red winged devil held one hand toward Inugami without changing his expression one bit. Instantly, black light formed a barrier and deflected Inugami who was jumping.

“Gyan...!”

Adjusting her posture in the air, Inugami landed on the floor with four feet. Taking advantage of that gap, the imps rushed at her body.

“《Shadow Square》!”

In accordance with the magic Nekomiya chanted, a black rectangular blade ripped through the imps who flocked to Inugami.

“Because you flocked to the girl you like in that manner, I do not like it.”

*Still a pretentious girl as usual. She's a cat now though.*

Then, while Kagoi, Kensaki and Uozumi was advancing and kicking around the imps, Inugami and the devil glared at each other. Unlike the individual the other day, the devil this time was quite inexpressive. He looked down at Inugami with cold eyes, then further over here, he turned his eyes to Sakuma group and said

this.

"I see, it is as reported.... The survivor of the lowly wolf is mixed in. That is no use at all."

Sakuma couldn't figure out what the man was talking about.

*Lowly wolf, what is it? Survivor, what does he mean by that? Use, what kind of use is he planning?* The meaning of the words that the man said, she could not understand. *All I can say is that the man in front of us has clear murderous intent at least against Inugami Hibiki.*

Inugami leaped at the man with a roar. The man grabbed the scruff of her neck and strongly slammed her against the wall.

"UOOOOH!"

Kensaki raised her sword and slashed at the red winged devil. The man took on the sword with his free hand and attacked Kensaki with a kick to her stomach.

"Guu...!"

"Don't rampage so much.... Our aim isn't to kill you guys..."

"What...!"

Even while saying so, the man didn't stop his hand gripping Inugami's throat. *Again, only her treatment is obviously different.* Sakuma prepared the chant and released an attack magic at the same timing as Nekomiya.

"《Evil Flare》!"

"《Shadow Bind》!"

However, it didn't go through to the red winged devil. The devil forcibly tore the restraints of Nekomiya's 《Shadow Bind》 to shreds, and just like that erased the 《Evil Flare》 with one hand. The unceasing attacks of Uozumi and Kagoi also didn't come close at all, they were sent flying with overwhelming force.

"Once again. I have no intention to kill you guys. What is this strange resistance ... hmm?"

The man then suddenly raised his face. Throwing Inugami's body with all his might, he glared at the end of the corridor. Kagoi caught Inugami's body.

*It is the same as that time. Sakuma thought. Even the devil who appeared last time also glared at the back of the corridor and spoke to «someone». It seems that the one who appeared this time is an individual different from the previous one, but, as before, he is aware of the existence of «someone» in the same way.*

The man raised his lips grinningly.

“I see, did you feel like responding? It’s fine.”

An instruction was given to the imps, and the man tried to cross the corridor. From behind, Kagoi and Uozumi tried to stop him by tackling, but the man easily shook them off. Sakuma again quickly chanted her magic, glaring at the red winged devil.

“《Evil》...”

“Fu!”

Faster than Sakuma could fire her magic, the man turned around and fire a black wave toward her. The magical power she spun spontaneously exploded and all the damage came back over here.

“Kyaa...!”

“Sakuma!”

Kensaki received Sakuma who screamed as she was blown away. A large amount of imps blocked their way, protecting the man proceeding forward in the corridor.

“This is bad, ahead of there is the dining room.”

Nekomiya gave out a voice containing unusual irritation. Kensaki set up her sword with both hands.

“For now, we will throw off the imps in front of us and quickly make way to the dining room! Inugami is also fine with this!?”

“.....!!”

Inugami only growled low and didn’t make any other intention.  
*Is it really the dining room that the red winged devil is aiming for? Or is it the dungeon in the back? She didn’t know, but since the dining room was at the aisle where he went, she couldn’t leave it alone. Then again, it is difficult to face that man. We have to prepare some means of escape.*

*He said that he had no intention to kill us. However, it doesn't seem likely for that guy to become friendly. Inugami was actually about to be killed.*

When she was feeling frustrated that the number of imps didn't go down at all, from the dining room echoed the screams of the students.

Kyousuke could not sleep at all that night.

Carol arranged one room for each of them. Considering that it was a shared room even on a field trip, it was the first time in a long while for him to become alone in a room. The bed was somewhat hard, but it was still much better than the base that used substitutes without decent bedding.

Even so, he couldn't fall asleep.

Somehow he crawled out of the futon and got out of the room. He lit a lantern and walked in the corridor.

“Uwaaa! Gyaaaa!?”

A knight he happened to come across screamed.

“Ah, sorry...”

“...!? Ah! Ahhh...! He—Her Highness Princess'...! Th—this, too rude...”

“Are you scared after all?”

“Eh, yes. Well, considerable...”

Kyousuke thought that it would be so. Perhaps he was a knight on patrol, but if a skeleton with a lantern suddenly walked through the corridor in the middle of the night, he would surely be scared.

Earlier today, they were treated to a meal at the dining room, and were guided around the fortress a little, even so the figures of Kyousuke group was seen with strange eyes. Although it was a natural story, but it was still strangely uncomfortable. Even if they were to explain that they were the same human beings, it wasn't something that could be easily come to terms with.

Rin encouraged Selena who fell down after that, it seemed they did throwing pillows in the room. Hakuba killed time by looking at female knights and magicians of the fortress, and Akira borrowed some of the books Carol had and was reading. He paid close attention so as not to burn them. He was wondering

if they were something that could be read but it seemed that he could kind of read them.

“Utsurogi? What are you doing in a place like this?”

Because he was suddenly called out from behind, Kyousuke’s dorsal muscles ... not, or rather, his spine instantly straighten.

“Ah–ahh no, I can’t sleep...”

“Cannot fall asleep? Well it can’t be helped then. The situation is the situation.”

Standing behind him was knight general Carol.

“After all, I am concerned about the base. I hope everyone is safe, but.”

“There are 40 monsters. Have they all changed to different creatures?”

“Ehh, well...”

Carol held a lantern in her left hand and brought her right hand to her chin, making a difficult face.

“...Is there an orc?”

“There is. He’s a nice guy. His name is Okumura.”

“...Really.”

The expression of the knight general was grim.

Come to think of it, Kyousuke had heard from Kogane. *Female knights are weak against orcs.* Carol was probably around 40, no matter how young he estimated she would still be around 30, but since a female knight was a female knight, she might be weak against orcs.

On the contrary, the dullahan Kensaki was relatively good at coordinating with Okumura, but well, she was probably not a female knight but a dullahan.

*No, it’s not the situation to be thinking about the relationship between female knights and orcs.*

“So, Carol-san. I want to ask one thing.”

“What?”

“How can I become stronger?”

“Mu...”

In response to Kyousuke’s frank question, Carol made a grim face.

Although not as much as Rin, Kyousuke also was consolidating his desire to become stronger. Information that the red winged devil was only a «*Pawn*». Knowing that, Kyousuke felt that he could not stay in his present state. Even though it was said that he became a little stronger by the effect of Akai's blood, he couldn't think that they could compete with Red Wings.

“Generally speaking, I trained my body.”

“That's right.”

“Since Utsurogi has no muscles to train...”

“Is not it...”

*Again, there is an absolute limit in this skeleton body. It is frustrating.*

**Phase 2.** That is what Red Wing called my current state. 2 means that, there is also a possibility for 3? If I can proceed further to the new Phase from now on, will I be able to gain the power to resist that devil?

“Of course I also trained my technique, after all, it is ridiculously difficult to get a tempered body. I have heard various stories from His Majesty the King and the trippers, but it will be better if you think that the various laws are different between your world and the world over here.”

The «*Earth Splitting Knight General*», did she know Kyousuke's heart, continued like so.

“Some people will be able to crush large boulders in one punch if they train their body.”

“But, because I can not train, it's impossible, and...”

“Mu, yea.... Well, you can't...”

When it came down to it, what important was still the strength of one's body. Rin and Akira. He had to rely on them after all.

As long as he could wear the high-density body of Rin, he might be able to get some fighting power. But the question was whether he could withstand that now. Although his body had become somewhat sturdier due to Akai's blood, he was a little uneasy about how much it could endure the density of Rin that could easily crush a metal water bottle.

“Don't push yourself too hard.”

Carol said.

"Whether you will be able to go back home some day. There is nothing I can say about that, but if you're going to return to a peaceful world, strength is supposed to be unnecessary."

*Certainly, it may be so.*

*Still, I feel that I cannot do anything unless I get stronger now.*

"...I think I will go to bed for now. Because I would like to borrow a horse first thing tomorrow morning."

"Yea, I understand. Then, good night."

Kyousuke exchanged words with Carol like that and returned to his bedroom. On the way, he met Rin and Akira who were wandering along the corridor in the same way.

"Oh, Utsurogi-kun. Hello~"

"Kyousuke, are you going to sleep now?"

"Ahh, yeah.... I am planning to return to my room now..."

And so Kyousuke, with a slime creeping in the corridor and a wisp floating about, found a knight whose back gave out and peed himself, he was lost for a while whether or not to report this to Carol.

"Uuuuu, Utsurogi-san! Utsurogi-saaan!!"

Kyousuke's wake-up call was an awfully hurried scream of Selena. Good at waking up was something Kyousuke proud of. Raising his body quickly, he looked toward Selena, different from yesterday, she had changed into a white dress. It was not excessively frilly fluffy but rather emphasizing on mobility to a certain extent, but it seemed to be quite girlish compared to that investigation team's clothes with zero sex appeal.

"Ahh, Selena-san really is a princess."

"That's right! I'm really a princess! But now is not the time for such a thing!"

She was not alone in Kyousuke's room. As Princess Selenade's escorts, several knights were attached.

"It's an enemy attack. Utsurogi-dono."

"Enemy attack?"

As one of the knights said so, Kyousuke reflexively asked again.

“It’s Red Wing. I’m sorry, but we’re longer in a situation where we can lend you a horse.”

Kyousuke was taken aback by those words. *Red Wing. It's the red winged devil.*

“I’m giving evacuation instructions to everyone’s rooms! We will escape! Hurry!”

“Ah, right. I understand.”

As prompted by Selena, Kyousuke left the room. Small tremors hit the fortress several times.

“The enemy’s strength is more than last time. There are 3 «*Pawns*», imps and ghouls accompanying them in countless number is the same, but in addition to that, they are taking along a large number of large undead monsters.”

While running down the corridor, the escort knights explained.

“Large undead monster?”

“A gigantic monster with a big frame of 5 meters and 6 arms.”

*It is the Wight King.* Kyousuke thought. *That also, was the fighting force of the red winged devil.*

“Why are those guys attacking this fortress?”

“About that, we still.... At any rate, it is an enemy that we hasn’t been able to confirm its appearance even in documents, etc...”

On one hand, they raided the base of Kyousuke and the others, and on the other hand, they attacked this wall at the westernmost end of the human living area. The purpose of those guys could not be seen. *I wonder if they intend to conquer the world just like the demon king of old-fashion RPG.*

“KIKIKIKIII!!”

Along with a high-pitch cry, imps carrying small spears blocked their way.

“They have already invaded inside!”

The knights took out their swords and slashed the imps.

“Selena-san, Carol-san is?”

“She should be in charge of the defense at the front line.... However, it seems that we are short of manpower...”

*Is it such a situation that allowed the monsters to breakthrough? It is especially troublesome that the enemies are able to fly. The height of the wall doesn't mean a single thing.*

“Kyousuke!!”

In front, on the opposite side from the imps appeared a wisp, the knights stood ready for a moment, but immediately they realized that it was Hino Akira and let down their swords. *It looks confusing, I feel a little sorry.*

“Akira! What about Himemizu and Hakuba!?”

“Probably, they should have moved to a safe place first. Kyousuke, what will you do?”

“What to do ... is it?”

Kyousuke looked at the dead body of an imp rolling at his feet. It was said that this fortress didn't have enough people to fight against the enemy's war potential. Kyousuke didn't have enough power to repel the red winged devil, but if it was on the level of imp or the Wight King, he could cope with it somehow by cooperating with the knights.

“Let's do it, Akira.”

“Well, I thought that would be the case.”

Akira jumped into Kyousuke body without delay. Flame circulated throughout his body, changing Kyousuke's body into a demon of flame. Akira named it «*Blaze Cross*». The knights raised a voice of admiration.

“We will also fight. I'm counting on you Selena-san!”

“Of course, that goes without saying...”

“Well then.”

Kyousuke kicked the floor and flew at a stroke with the accelerating power of the flame. Although he heard a voice saying something from behind, he didn't reply. Just, when looking back, Selena was clenching her fist while seeing him off.

“Akira, what about combining with Himemizu?”

"I wonder. Without spare bones, we can not become Full Cross. Let's look at the situation and think for the moment."

He said that if the combination with Rin could respond to the situation better than the combination with Akira, then the combination with Rin would also be considered.

"But I wonder if I can survive Himemizu's current body..."

"If you need to combine, it will be necessary to drain the excess water."

Aiming at the roof of the defensive wall, he flew up the stairs as if sliding. On the way, swinging their swords to stop the progression of the ghouls, a unit of knights and magicians came in sight. Kyousuke faced both hands in front of his chest and gathered magical power. Flame began to rapidly grow into a spherical shape.

"Prominence!"

In accordance with the throwing posture, Akira took preparation to let loose the flame ball.

""BAAAAA———LL!""

The ball of flame was released and flashed over the heads of the knights and magicians, landing on the group of ghouls. The explosion burned the dead flesh, and then the knights, visibly surprised turned back to Kyousuke group. However, Kyousuke and Akira would not stop, they climbed up the stairs at once and went out to the roof just like that.

Under their eyes, a hosts of imps and ghouls were crowding with forces that covered the entire wasteland. One group was trying to break the wall, another group was letting down ropes for others to climb. Along with that, several wight kings were under attack by arrows and magic.

Certainly, he felt that the numerical difference was too overwhelming. The number of knights to respond to the number of enemies was clearly insufficient.

"Kyousuke, look at that."

"Itata~, please do not move my head without permission."

In the direction Akira indicated, there was a shadow that was blowing off the

ghouls and scattered them like a joke. The soil was blown up high as if a mortar had landed, but it was only one person that was causing it. He could not confirm who it was, but well he could imagine.

“...Somehow it feels like Dynasty Warriors and Samurai Warriors...”

Kyousuke muttered some words.

“To put it another way, if you don’t have that much power, you can not compete against the red winged devil.”

Knight General Carol was probably trying to reduce the number of enemies that were crowded in large quantities. This was because with the overwhelming numerical difference, they would eventually break through the outer wall. That was why Carol couldn’t help expending her power to clean out the small fries.

“If I think they could attack the base with this number.... It’s extremely horrifying.”

Kyousuke said so, and took off to the sky. On the left side, Carol was kicking around the enemy. It was on the right side that the fighting force to fight back was insufficient. When he was trying to shoot the prominence ball again toward the army spreading under his eyes, a red winged object passed by the corner of his field of vision.

“.....!?”

When he looked over, the flying body that was just about to fly off stopped moving and turned around to this place.

“Hou.... The skeleton that I met at the «*Promised Cemetery*». You’re alive.”  
“That guy, the one who came to the base...!”

***Catacombs, is that the name of that dungeon?*** To the meaningful name, his suspicion of what the devil in front of him really knew was getting stronger.

“Have you judged that you are at a disadvantage fighting by yourself and have asked the humans for help? Clever, but ... it seems to have been too late.”  
“What do you mean?”

The red winged devil curved his lips, spreading both hands and happily delivered the bad news to Kyousuke.

"Last night, my brethren headed to the «*Promised Cemetery*». It has already been more than ten hours since then."

Is everyone in the base safe!? Can Kyousuke oppose the red winged devil!?

# Chapter 26: Despair and Hope

Himemizu Rin and Hakuba Kazusumi, while they were escaping, the wall in front of them were abruptly destroyed, and unavoidably they were thrown onto the battlefield. Human knights and magicians were forced into a difficult fight on the battlefield riddled with numerous imps and ghouls. Even more surprising, several monsters that were similar to the Wight King were confirmed.

“For now, let’s search for Utsurogi-kun and everyone!”

“Ahh, I want to group up for now.”

To Rin’s words, Hakuba nodded.

“Himemizu, get on my back for now. Our movement speed is too different.”

“Eh, are you sure? Ever since the water bottle was thrust in my body, I have been sucking up water and store it inside my body?”

“No, yeah. I’m fine ... maybe...”

Hakuba while trembling slightly murmured so, Rin tried to poke his hind-legs \*chon chon\* for the time being. Since there didn’t seem to be any rejection reaction in particular, she worked hard to climb up and tried to put her body on the saddle.

“GU, GUAAAAAA!!”

“Hi~yaa.”

Hakuba lost his balance and fell just like that. Rin’s body also was thrown into the air.

“Ahh~, after all my body is no longer pure!?”

“Wrong, it was simply because you’re heavy!”

“That’s terribly shocking!”

Around the slime and unicorn that were performing monster comedy routine, the ghouls were slowly gathering. Hakuba managed to get up and retreated as he was slightly afraid. There was certainly legends stating that [the unicorns are

*ferocious and skewer even elephants*], but the battle prowess of Hakuba himself wasn't so high.

Here, as the chubby and slimy Himemizu Rin had increased her density and mass, there was only the choice to carve a way out.

“Oryaa~a! Princess juice busha~aa!”

“Himemizu, your words! Mind your words!”

When the high-density compressed water was fired, it skewed the extremely crowding ghouls and then further cut them. This was the power of water cutter which was used for processing diamonds. The days she was looked down upon as a member of **Team · Useless** seemed like a lie.

Furthermore, in order to deal with the imps who were rushing in, Rin unravel the compression of her body. The body that was as large as a lake suddenly spread, enclosing the gathered imps. Against the helpless monsters that were summarily gathered in one place, she shot a large water cannon just like that. As expected, Rin right now didn't have enough courage to crush the monster by compressing her body alone.

“Yosh, the way is clear! Start moving!”

“O–ou!”

Bringing Hakuba, Rin started moving diligently. As she had to crawl on the ground after all, her movement speed was slow. Hakuba patiently accompanied her.

“However, you became stronger...”

“Nn, yeah.... Well, ne~e.”

Receiving the words of Hakuba, Rin talked hesitantly.

Rin certainly became stronger. Because she was thinking that she wanted to be strong, that in itself was a good thing.

“A bit now, I'm worried about Utsurogi-kun.”

“Utsurogi?”

“Yeah, Utsurogi-kun also. That is, he was also thinking that he had to become strong.”

“Don't you think so? We were defeated. I want to be strong as well.”

“Yea~h. Well, that's right...”

To be honest, she couldn't understand Utsurogi Kyousuke's thoughts. Surely, he seemed to be a good person, she thought, but other than that she didn't know anything else. Because Rin hadn't been together with him for as long as Akira, she couldn't clearly trace Kyousuke's line of thought, it was a bit frustrating.

However, only one day since Rin came to this fortress line. She was able to sense the subtle changes in Kyousuke.

When thinking that he could not borrow the fighting power of the knights here, Kyousuke first and foremost seemed to have thought *『I must strengthen myself』*. Possibly, as Hakuba had said, similar feelings to that could have been felt since the time they lost to the red winged devil and had Kogane taken away, but still it had only been gradually coming out to the surface.

She felt it was not a good sign.

Rin wanted to become Kyousuke's power, so she thought that she wanted to be strong, but in the case of Kyousuke, he wanted to become strong to manage things by himself. That wasn't very good.

The exchange of the day Kyousuke lent her his power for the first time, she still remembered it.

———*I understand, Himemizu. It is painful to be called a good-for-nothing...*

*Probably Kyousuke is such a guy. I can understand why Akira is irritated. For someone else, I must do it with my own power, a part of him must be thinking so.*

"Himemizu, look at that! That!"

Rin also turned her eyes to the direction where Hakuba indicated with his horn.

In the sky over there, opposing the red winged devil, there was a figure of a skeleton clad in flame. It was Kyousuke. He was glaring at Red Wing.

"It's bad, he couldn't win even with Full Cross..."

"Let's hurry, Hakuba-kun!"

*Let's hurry, while saying so, she herself could only sluggishly crawl on the ground.*

*It would have been an easy victory with the healthy legs when I was still a human.* Rin was strangely frustrated.

He could not understand the words of the red winged devil in front of him. It was something that should have been expected to some extent in the first place. As there was always that possibility, he should have been prepared for it. However, once it had truly been told, the words didn't come with a sense of reality, the dangling fear gradually came out.

The base was raided by Red Wings. That meant that they truly didn't make it in time. Kyousuke clenched his fists. Although it wasn't the man in front of his eyes that made the second attack to the base, from his words, there was no doubt that their combat ability was roughly the same.

A feeling of helplessness and a strange uneasiness attacked him at the same time. After all it was hearsay, there was no confirmation. However, if he considered that it could be the truth, Kyousuke's body would stiffen.

“Pull yourself together, Kyousuke.”

Akira said in a clear voice.

“Even if what he said is true, we only know that the base «*received an attack last night*». It's still unclear whether our classmates are safe or not.”

“Even if you say so...”

Looking at Red Wing smiling grinningly and floating in front of them, Kyousuke thought.

Would everyone in the base really be safe if they were to be attacked by devils whose strength was the same as this one? He boasted of a power that could kick down Full Cross, not allowing anyone to even come close at all. Even now, Kyousuke and Akira didn't feel like winning at all.

“It's fine, Kyousuke. Accept this shock, it's no use to despair now. Everyone might be okay, it's important to have hopes. It would be so.”

“Then, how about...”

In a calm tone, the words of Red Wing seemed like playing, in contrast with Akira whose impatience was spreading.

"I have received a report. Those who had been in the «Promised Cemetery», about half of them are useless and were disposed of, and the guys that may have some uses were taken."

"You must be lying."

In order to cover his words, Akira declared.

"You guys should not have the means to communicate over long distance in detail. The second raid on the base would have been done at an earlier stage if it was available. In addition, it took all your effort just to bring Kogane back with you last time, I cannot imagine a situation develop to where you could take several people."

"There was collaborator(s). They were uncooperative last time, but well, they finally obediently nodded their head this time. Because it would be scary to defy our King, it is natural, but..."

"....."

Akira fell silent to the words of Red Wing. He didn't believe it. He still had doubts.

However, Kyousuke knew that the words of Akira had more meaning than simply asking the truth. They had a long relationship. If the base was attacked and things had developed according to Red Wing, he knew that Kyousuke's will to fight would drop on a grand scale.

In order to raise Kyousuke's willpower, Akira was trying to find holes in the story of Red Wing.

Kyousuke tightly clenched his fists and looked at Red Wing.

For the time being as a friend, he had to answer to Akira's spirit.

"Hou, you still plan to go against us?"

"There are Himemizu and Selena-san as well as Hakuba in this fortress. I will not let go of anyone else."

Kyousuke firmly pushed his clenched fist toward Red Wing. The flames were burning vigorously, and Akira launched fire bullets from the extended fist. The red winged devil repelled it with his gauntlet. That armor was still troublesome. In the previous battle, Kogane's fireball burned the man's exposed face and had a certain effect. However, playing with that armor and no damage could pass

through at all.

“Akira, Prominence Ball at maximum firepower!”

“All right.”

While emitting the fire boosters, Kyousuke faced both of his palms together. Red Wing floated a fearless smile and started firing black energy bullets. While avoiding with three-dimensional movement, he would grow the fireball between his palms. When Kyousuke tried to take distance, Red Wing also spread his red wings and pursued him.

The movement over there was obviously playing around. Kyousuke was convinced. That guy had to be thinking that there was already no way for them to resist. Certainly, Kyousuke who couldn't become Full Cross, didn't believe that he could stand against that red winged devil in the present situation. It was more clever to run away.

However, if he escaped from the red winged devil here, he wouldn't know where that guy would go next.

It might be the place where Rin, Hakuba, and Selena escaped to.

“Prominence!!”

Kyousuke turned around and brandishing a fireball that had grown to about one meter in diameter.

“BAAAAA———LL!!”

The launched fireball impacted in front of Red Wing that was pursuing. Just before that, he seemed to have protected his face with the back armor, still, a continuous explosion covered his entire body in flames. While waiting for the fire and smoke to clear up, Kyousuke and Akira vigilantly stared at the shadow of Red Wing.

“Ahhh ... damn, well done...!”

The explosion by Prominence Ball certainly seemed to have succeeded in damaging the red winged devil to some extent. However, it was by no means a fatal injury. When he undid the arms crossed in front of his face, dark skin, as lively as every, showed up.

It was ineffective.

Even the Wight King had faltered, but against him, the blow did not work at all.

Kyousuke again put his palms in front of his chest.

"Akira, let's go again!"

"There won't be a second time!"

However, Red Wing's movement which shorten the distance in a stretch was much faster.

"Drop!"

As it was, he raised his black metal boots high, and struck the heel to Kyousuke's body.

Kyousuke and Akira couldn't keep their balance in the air due to the impact. They were knocked down at once to the battlefield crowding with imps and ghouls. \*Do~on\*, there was a dull shock and a big crater was formed in the wasteland. While a cloud of dust was rising, Kyousuke raised his upper body and confirm his body.

*Bones are not broken. I have not fallen apart. My whole body is still connected tightly.*

"Are you all right? Kyousuke!"

"Ah, right..."

Kyousuke responded to Akira's screams while being half stunned in amazement.

*This, is this my current body that was strengthen by Akai's blood?*

"To become this strong.... I'm surprised."

Unusually, Akira also showed admiration in his voice.

There were several knights engaged in a battle with the ghouls in the surroundings. Although they were surprised for a moment that a skeleton fell from the sky, as soon as they confirmed that it was Kyousuke group, they took a formation to protect this place.

"Have you come to help us?"

"That was my intention..."

Kyousuke looked up at the sky while feeling bitter. The red winged devil was

about to descend slowly toward this place. That was not all. The wight kings who were in the surroundings also gathered together as if following the instructions of the devil.

The man who appeared to be the leader of the knights had cold sweats sticking to his face.

It was unknown how much combat abilities these knights had, but as they banded together to fight against the imps and ghouls, they were unlikely to be on par with Full Cross. Even against a single wight king, quite a hard struggle would still be expected. Much less against a few of them.

“A~an? Did you not fall apart...”

With a voice somewhat out of tune, the red winged devil landed.

“I can’t imagine what kind of trick this is. It seems that your body that should have been crushed to pieces are back to normal, I don’t understand anything.”

“Because it’s not the power of one person...”

Kyousuke kept up his bravado and took the stance of Jeet Kune Do. Akira murmured and grumbled *『Again with the excessive things...』*.

The red winged devil suddenly stopped his feet approaching and made a slightly grim expression.

“...No, there’s no way.”

What kind of meanings those words held, Kyousuke didn’t understand.

“Anyway, in addition to the valuable Phase 2, I do not understand well but it is an individual who has activated ruggedness. The skeleton race itself is a miss, but it seems worthwhile to take back.”

“What...!”

Immediately afterwards, the red winged devil had black lightning-like effects on him. While he was thinking that it was the attack that made Rin fainted, Akira raised a warning voice.

“Kyousuke! Run!”

However, the red winged devil’s movement was still faster. At a speed which Kyousuke and the knights couldn’t respond to, Red Wing released black lightning from both arms.

“Aahh, guu...!?”

Screams leaked out of Kyousuke’s mouth. Severe pain ran through his body, Kyousuke’s body together with Akira was restrained by the red winged devil. It was slightly different from that blow that fainted Rin. It was a technique to deprive the opponent of the freedom of their body, by the time they noticed, already they couldn’t even twitch. Some of the knights who was battling with the ghouls strike their sword at Red Wing.

“As expected, there is no use for humans! Kill them!”

Restraining Kyousuke and the others with lightning released from his right arm, Red Wing gave out instructions with his left arm. The ghouls who were moving disorderly until then were commanded, and further more, a number of wight kings in the surroundings simultaneously raised their barbaric scimitar overhead. The knights’ faces turned blue at once. Kyousuke shouted.

“S-stop...!”

“Despair at your own helplessness. Then it will better to be a little obedient.”

*I thought that I have to become strong, and yet. I thought that I want to be strong, and yet.*

*Why does my body not so much as move?*

He remembered the conversation with Carol last night. Kyousuke had asked her how to become stronger, but she told him not to push himself, and also if he was to someday return back the former world, strength would be unnecessary then. But in the end, the result of not having power is this now. He was restrained by the enemy that should be defeated and couldn’t move even one finger, waiting for someone to die right in front of his eyes. Even his classmates at the base, he couldn’t protect. If he himself had more power.

“Kyousuke!”

Akira shouted.

“You do not despair! You..., now, again...!”

“If you want power, we will give it! You will also be able to see your friends!

Well now, kill!"

As Red Wing instructed, the wight king brought down its barbaric scimitars.

Immediately after that, roaring sound and impact shook the air, an explosion went up at the body of the wight king.

"What!? What happened...!?"

There was no one to answer the panicked voice of the red winged devil. However, as a result, the barbaric scimitar was not swung down. Roaring sound and tremors intermittently echoed. The wight kings crowding in the surroundings broke their postures due to the rising flames from its whole body and collapsed in the wasteland. The ghouls who were supposed to moved under command had also completely stopped their movements due to the dismay of Red Wing, their commander. Taking advantage of that gap, the knights promptly cut them down.

"What is that...!?"

The leader of the knights pointed to the back of Kyousuke and Red Wing. In a slightly loosened restraint, Kyousuke barely managed to turn his line of sight. That which was pointed to was something that should never have existed there in Kyousuke's mind.

With newly attached wheels rotating in unison, it broke through the reddish-brown wasteland. 20 meters in width and 200 meters in total length, it boasted a clear majestic appearance in this place.

Its existence was confirmed a few days after Kyousuke and the others came to this world, it was the appearance of the heavy cruiser.

"Ah, it's a hit!? It's a hit, isn't it!?"

On the bridge, with a telescope in one hand, Ryuzaki raised his voice. Certainly, flames rising from the wight king's body and it seemed to slowly fall down. It seemed that the 20.3 cm naval turrets in Kogane's memo had given a fruitful result without fail. It seemed likely for the first and second shots to miss

for this kind of thing, but it never hurt to hit in a fluke.

However, as he had imagined, it seemed to have become a fairly large-scale battle. It was not a mistake to have launched the heavy cruiser ahead of schedule.

There seemed to be quite a problem in the rigidity of the armor, because they forced the impossible, it immediately started rattling everywhere, since the beginning of last night almost without any break, everyone was in a condition without any good night sleep, even so they managed to make it in time, so this judgment was not a mistake.

Last night at the base, all the students of Jindai high-school 2<sup>nd</sup> year class 4 had boarded this ship without missing a single person. By the way, the goblins and skeletons were also with them. They had been working as laborers.

“Class rep, I found Utsurogi and Hino. They are at the feet of the Wight King we shot down earlier.”

“Muu...”

At the report of Nekomiya, he looked into the telescope again. It was just as she said. Certainly, there was a figure of Utsurogi cladding in flames. Rin and Hakuba, as well as Selena were missing.

“I will leave the steering command to Gofunkawahara.”

“Eh, me?”

Ryuzaki, saying that much, tried to leave the bridge. Gofunkawahara while catching the thrown memo of Kogane in one hand showed a little puzzle.

“Go help, Ryuzaki.”

Akai, who had been polishing her nails uninterestedly, said such a thing. Ryuzaki stopped his feet.

Next to Akai was Sakuma, and then Inugami was sitting in a place a little away. Inugami was still glaring at Akai as usual. It would be a lie to say that he did not hesitate to put those girls here all together like this, nevertheless they were still classmates all the same. Besides, it was thanks to Akai that they could find themselves here like this.

Sakuma also asked with a slightly worried tone.

"Ryuzaki-kun, are you really okay?"

"Ahh. Just a few hours ago I was able to «do» it. I also do not intend to continue imposing on Utsurogi and everyone forever."

Saying so, Ryuzaki once again jumped out of the bridge and ran straight to the deck. Skeletons and goblins on the battery, as well as some students waved to Ryuzaki.

Ryuzaki dragged his fighting spirit from the depth of his heart while running over the deck toward the bow. A hot sensation, like boiling blood ran through his whole body. Ryuzaki Kunihiro, when he was transferred here as a dragon-kin, the ancient power engraved deep within his genes woke up.

As the class rep, he had a lot of friends to support. He did not intend to impose all the fight to Kyousuke and the others. On Ryuzaki's back, great wings decisively unfolded.

*I'm joining up. Before I arrived, please be safe.*

With a sufficient run-up, Ryuzaki's body leaped into the sky.

A splendid dragon, 10 meters in overall-length, took off from the deck of the heavy cruiser.

"What, what kind of thing!? No way that guy ... did he fail!?"

Recognizing the appearance of heavy cruiser stopped at a remote place, Red Wing revealed dismay.

*That guy*, was probably referring to the fellow who attacked the base. Kyousuke understood. His classmates had succeeded in escaping. He didn't know what kind of means or sacrifices had been used, but at the very least they had avoided the crisis of annihilation.

As Akira had said, more than half of the earlier conversation was a bluff. However to see that complete confidence and the complete panic now, the devil had to be estimating the not so distance «probably» future. And with his prediction overturned, he was now disturbed.

"What on earth...! That guy, there's no way he...!"

"It seems that your expectations has gone amiss."

Akira muttered fearlessly. The black lightning was still restraining their movement here. Kyousuke decided to say, even though it was still too early to

bluff.

“Isn’t it very embarrassing to say such things so triumphantly?”

“Shut up! Do not forget that my situation is still favorable here!”

When Red Wing raised one of his arms, the fallen wight kings slowly rose up. Although they were damaged to the extent of missing a few arms, but the destructive power their large bodies could draw out was still plenty enough. However, the wight king who just got up was once again buried on the ground by another shadow attacking from the sky.

“UOOOOOOOO!!”

A telling blow from the sky. It was not only the wight king but also the imps and ghouls that lined up were crushed beneath the giant by the impact of the landing. The length of the body was 5 meters. Including the long extended tail, it was 10 meters or so, it was the dragon itself that was often told in legends. Before the eyes of Kyousuke and the knights who were completely dumbfounded, the dragon drove a breath to the wight king at point-blank range. The flame exploded, and in a blink of an eye its body had completely ceased to function. The two remaining wight wings as well were also mowed down with a powerful tail sweep.

The tail grazed the body of the red winged devil, at that moment he slightly clicked his tongue, and the restraint was released for an instant. Taking that chance, Kyousuke and Akira got out of the control of Red Wing.

“Utsurogi, Hino, you are all right!”

Although the voice emitted from the large body was much lower, it was a voice familiar to Kyousuke.

“Ryu–Ryuzaki...?”

“It’s me! Above all else, it seems like I was on time.”

Saying so, Ryuzaki planted his four feet on the ground, shielded Kyousuke and Akira as well as the knight order and glared at the red winged devil.

“I heard that dragonewt that could completely dragonize has reduced in number.... After all this guy is also Phase 2!”

Red Wing shouted truly annoyed. At the same time, a roaring sounded at a place far away.

It was not due to bombardment from the heavy cruiser. When he turned his line of sight, the ground got grandly scooped up, and mountains of imps and ghouls piled up. A few hundred meters from here. It was the mountains that knight general Carol and a few skillful knights following her had built up. Two Red Wings had already started a battle with Carol and company. They seemed to be restraining her with a circle of small fries. Probably they planned to crush her once she had been exhausted.

“Tsk...! Although it’s bad, I do not have time to be your partner!”

*Is he planning to reinforce those two?* In front of them, Red Wing spread his wings.

“You won’t escape!”

Ryuzaki fluttered his big wings, trying to pursue Red Wing. At that time, wind pressure of a level that Kyousuke and the others could not withstand rushed over them. Akira, who seemed to be almost extinguished, screamed *『As ever, that guy can’t read the atmosphere』* was understandable. However, even the difference in body size of more than 10 times had little effect on Red Wing, the heel drop that had knocked down Kyousuke, was delivered to Ryuzaki this time. Ryuzaki flinched for a movement and he was instantly shot down by the black energy released from both arms.

“Guuuu...!!”

Kyousuke group and the knights was leaving the scene in a hurry so that they would not be crushed by the falling Ryuzaki’s gigantic body. Together with a roar, Ryuzaki’s body rolled up a sand cloud. Red Wing while breathing out, glared over here, then spread his wings and headed toward Carol. Perhaps Carol also gradually accumulated fatigue, her movement was slightly dull against the two Red Wings.

“Ryuzaki, are you okay?”

He was worried about Carol, but for the moment he asked the class rep who came to help.

"Ahh, because my body is tough."

"What on earth is going on? The heavy cruiser is moving faster than planned, and I heard there was also an attack to the base..."

"That is..., let's talk about it after calming down."

Ryuzaki slowly raised his body. Thanks to the great efforts of the knights, the surrounding ghouls had been wiped out.

"Utsurogi-kuunn!"

Just then, as he heard a familiar voice again, he turned around and saw Rin and Hakuba running toward him. No, Rin was not running. She was crawling hard.

"Utsurogi-kun ... it's good that you're safe ... uwa~a!? Huge!?"

"Rin, Hakuba, it's good that the two of you are also unharmed."

"Ryu—Ryuzaki-kun! You have become so huge! I feel like I cannot talk about people, though!"

Rin's pace was the usual pace. Her tone went out of kilter, then it returned back to normal, it was such a feeling.

Hakuba used recovery magic to the knights who had wounds covering their whole bodies. He was chanting that embarrassing aria in a loud voice, moreover, he did it in high spirit. The knights also floated a bitter smile, they took up the unsheathed sword in front of their chest and was standing upright at attention. It might be a pose with a meaning similar to salute.

As Ryuzaki had said, the two of them were all right. Kyousuke breathed a little relief.

"The problem is after this."

Ryuzaki said, raising his eyes to look at Red Wing heading toward Carol group.

"That female knight seems to be strong, but..."

"Ahh, that's Selena-chan's shishou-san."

"Ehh..., is that so..."

*Speaking of which, Ryuzaki doesn't even know that Selena is a princess. Since it will be confusing to explain it here, let's keep quiet.*

"The strength of the knight general does not matter. What matters is that, inflicting a grievous wound on Kyousuke, making a fool out of us."

"Doesn't it feel unbearable if you don't even give him a punch?"

Hakuba who finished putting on recovery magic, came crashing in and said.

"Well I agree as well."

For the time being, the opinions were agreed to the direction of going after Red Wing and hit one blow. *But what should I do?* Kyousuke had no idea. Now that Ryuzaki had become more than a match against the wight kings, he was doubtlessly had about the same strength as Full Cross, even so he was no challenge against that devil, and was unceremoniously knocked down.

Kyousuke didn't have enough power to drive one punch into that devil. Incidentally recalling that he had to endure the restraint of Red Wing just now, bitter feelings surfaced.

*Even if I want to become strong, I can not become strong. My power is overwhelmingly lacking.*

"Utsurogi-kun, let's combine!"

Rin said that as she bounced her whole body. The knights who didn't understand the meaning of her words, was startled and looked at her.

"That's right. Himemizu is better than I am. Kyousuke's skeleton is also found to have become quite sturdy and can withstand the body of current Himemizu."

Akira also nodded.

"Utsurogi-kun, you want to be strong, right? Once you lost to that red winged devil, and Kogane-kun was kidnapped, you thought that you wanted to be strong? You have to defeat that, you thought so, didn't you?"

In response to Rin's words, Kyousuke involuntarily looked a Akira. It was a feeling that even he himself only knew vaguely. To be able to grasp such a thing, he could only thought of Akira, but apparently looking at his attitude, it didn't seem like Akira leaked it to Rin.

"Because I said I want to become Utsurogi-kun's strength. I will lend my power! Because human, they cannot become stronger by themselves."

“We’re not humans though.”

“No, we’re humans.”

To Kyousuke who tried to return with a classic joke, Rin firmly declared so.

“Even though I look like this, even though I was said to be a triangular corner, I think of myself as a human, and Utsurogi-kun as well, I think of you as a human.”

“But even if I borrow Himemizu’s power here, it doesn’t mean that I’ve become stronger...”

“Somehow, I do not quite understand,”

Ryuzaki interposed.

“Something like that, everyone should share it. I do not think that only Utsurogi must be strong.”

“Yes yes. Everyone gets stronger little by little, and that power will pile up. In that case it will be okay as everyone works hard little by little.”

Rin said such a thing and moved a little closer to the feet of Kyousuke.

“And, I think something like that was said when I was comforted by Utsurogi-kun.”

“Really...”

Kyousuke muttered and looked at his own hands.

In the first place, this body itself was strengthened by Akai’s blood. He was made aware of how tiny his own power really was. However, according to Rin and Ryuzaki’s words, apparently it didn’t matter.

*It doesn’t matter if it is borrowed power. It’s no problem if everyone piles up their power little by little, and with that, manage to get through.*

Kyousuke clenched his fists and said to Rin.

“I understand, thank you. Himemizu, let’s combine.”

“Yes~!”

\*Pyokonto\* bounced Rin. Furthermore, as it was Kyousuke looked at Ryuzaki.

“Ryuzaki, I cannot fly in the sky because I cannot become Full Cross. Please give me a ride.”

“Ahh, I don’t mind.”

The problem was that he didn’t know how much fight they had in the combined state with Rin against that devil as an opponent. *However, you got to do what you got to do.*

From the body of Kyousuke who solidified his determination, Akira left.

“Although I also would like to hit that guy if possible, but I will give that role to Himemizu.”

“Akira...”

“We will clean up the small fries together with Hakuba and the knights. Go at it freely, Kyousuke.”

“All right. Thank you.”

“However...”

Akira cleared his throat, then after looking at Kyousuke and Rin, he said with a tense voice.

“The shout of combination is 『*Stream · Cross*』. Take care to match your timing.”

Finally it’s the showdown with the red winged devil! It’s not a lie! It’s for real this time!

# Chapter 27: Strong, Sharp and Supple

“STREAM!” “CRO~OSS!”

Rin’s body in a high density compressed state, and Kyousuke’s body came together. And just as was told by Akira, their timing was perfectly matched. Together with the feeling of tightening, Rin’s slime body attached to his whole body. However, the sense of pressure was stronger than usual. Throughout his whole body, it was heavy heavily. The bones seemed to be squeaking. It might not be able to hold on for too long.

“Utsurogi-kun, are you okay? Is not it painful?”

“I’m more or less okay. However, the whole body is creaking *\*mishi mishi\**.”

“I see. Well then, we should cancel the combine soon.”

Rin’s voice was full of tension.

Nevertheless, it was thanks to Akai’s blood that he was able to endure the combine with her in the compressed state. Although the «worse» side effects were still unclear, he once again realized that the strength of everyone were coming together and became one.

As for Ryuzaki, he had Hakuba cast recovery magic on him.

“From Heaven come the Light of Affection! Bestow upon my comrades the power to rise once more! 《Healing Light》tt~!”

A soft glow was emitted from his single horn, healing the minor injuries covering Ryuzaki’s entire body. Ryuzaki floated a bitter smile.

“Hakuba.... You seem to be to happily chanting now...”

“It’s better to be able to have fun with everything.”

It was Hakuba who said something seemingly convincing.

Kyousuke closed and opened his hands to confirm the feeling. He came to understood that as much as the heaviness and pressure were, power also overflowed from every single minute movements. *If it’s this, it will work*, he had that sense of conviction.

Matching his line of sight with Ryuzaki, he nodded. Ryuzaki spread his wings and turned his back toward this side.

*Perhaps Rin and myself are the first Dragon Rider of 2<sup>nd</sup> year class 4.*

As Kyousuke loved fairy tales and old domestically produced RPG, there was a somewhat exciting feeling.

“I’m going to ride, Ryuzaki.”

“Ahh.”

Hakuba for some reason was sending a worried look. *I wonder what’s wrong.* Rin who was always talkative and cheerful, was awfully quiet at the moment. Even Akira in addition to everyone of the knights were also watching over here with nervous looks.

Kyousuke put his hands on Ryuzaki’s shoulder and shifted his center of gravity, and then Ryuzaki 『Gu~!?』 gave a muffled scream.

“Gu...! He...”

“He?”

“He, n–no, nothing ... nothing at all...!”

Ryuzaki put his strength into his whole body, and carrying Kyousuke and Rin as it was, slowly stood up.

Getting to this point, Kyousuke finally understood. The word swallowed by Ryuzaki was 『Heavy』. Since Rin in the compressed state surely had a considerable weight, it was natural. Ryuzaki probably didn’t even know that Rin was in the compressed state in the first place, so he should have received a considerable surprise attack.

Nevertheless, he did not put 『Heavy』 into words, it had to be because Rin was a girl. That word was a taboo to girls. Let alone, Rin was the opponent Ryuzaki had once confessed to. Kyousuke was shuddering secretly, *is this the consideration of a popular guy?*

“Ryu–Ryuzaki-kun are you alright? Are you okay? Don’t be unreasonable?”  
“Everyone...! If it was possible, being unreasonable...! Rin, you should have said that just now...!”

Ryuzaki Kunihiro *the Man*. He was splendid. The dragon who was staggering

for a while, eventually regained his balance and spread his wings again. While clenching his teeth, he flapped his wings. Carrying Kyousuke and the others in the ultra-heavy condition, Ryuzaki's gigantic body gently rose into the sky.

"Utsurogi and Rin also..., doing the impossible...! Only to me, you didn't say it, it's unacceptable!"

"Ryuzaki..."

"We're going you two! Don't be shaken off!"

Was it the latent ability of a «hit» race that had shifted to Phase 2? Ryuzaki excitedly roared into the blue sky, and immediately soared up at a speed as if he didn't feel any carrying weight. The target was the back of Red Wing. As Ryuzaki's wings steadily increased his speed, Rin gave a voice of admiration.

"Fast...! It's so fast...!"

Her excitement was echoing directly into Kyousuke's head.

"I do not dare stating the comparison target, but it's much faster anyway."

"O-ou..."

This, could it be she was showing consideration to Kyousuke who loved old domestically produced RPG?

As he shifted his line of sight toward the ground, Akira and Hakuba were starting to move with the members of the knight order. When he once again overlooked the battlefield from the sky, the situation had changed considerably compared to the first time. A part of the fortress line had been largely destroyed, and ghouls and imps were streaming in. *Is Selena really safe?* Akira and the others marched into the fortress line.

Before long, the back of Red Wing was becoming noticeably visible. Ryuzaki opened his jaws, and from within a scorching breath burst out. Red Wing finally took notice of this way and dodged it upward. Kyousuke extended his right fist.

"Shoot, Himemizu!"

"Yossha~a!"

Densely compressed water bullets were fired from his right fist. Red Wing who noticed, took defensive position while crossing his arms, but the water

cannonball delivered an impact from above his guard. Being thrown in the air, the red winged devil broke his posture.

“It’s working!”

Ryuzaki shouted clearly. Rin also expressed her joy.

“All right, let’s name it Himemizu 10 Billion Megaton Shot.”

“Please consult about that a little more with Akira.”

As Red Wing broke his posture, Ryuzaki drove in a breath in a flash. The red winged devil’s whole body was covered in flames. The parts covered by the black armor was probably intact, even so the dark skin was greatly burned. But again, devils were opponents to be feared. The monster spread its red wings, shaking off the constantly emitting scorching hot breath and headed straight toward this place.

“Ryuzaki!”

Although Kyousuke shouted, Red Wing had already got into Ryuzaki’s bosom. A strike with destructive power of both speed and weight added in was delivered into the back of Ryuzaki’s neck. Looking the red winged devil’s movement trying to add in further pursuits, Kyousuke kicked Ryuzaki’s back.

“Utsurogi!?”

“Deerya~!”

Leaping his body into the air, he grappled Red Wing’s body in the sky. The red winged devil muttered with absolute hatred.

“You bastard, to even reach this place...!”

“Ryuzaki-kun! Leave it to us!”

The ultra weight of Rin in the compressed state could not be supported by the red winged devil. Coupled with the jumping acceleration, they were crashing into the ground in one stroke.

Although Red Wing desperately struggled to pull off Kyousuke’s body grappling him, the strength of Rin’s body in the compressed state was substantial. Hitting the ground like this, it was time for the second round. Kyousuke and Rin, and then the red winged devil, once again returned to the battlefield on the ground with a thunderous roar.

It suddenly appeared on the battlefield, a ship running on land. One part of the army comprising of imps and ghouls as well as the wight kings changed their target over there. As a result, the heavy cruiser that had just gone through renovation received an onrush of enemy troops crawling toward it. No, the renovation had not been completed yet. For the time being, they only connected the shaft to the prime mover so that it could run on the ground. Because the outer wall surface which became ragged due to rust and aged deterioration was almost untouched, Kuremori the renovation supervisor screamed.

“Go—Gofunkawahara! Do something! At this rate it will be instantly destroyed!”

“And, as it was said, all the combat personnel who can move will sortie! Umm,『Take your battle stations』!”

While looking at the terms in Kogane’s memos, Gofunkawahara shouted to the warship’s radio.

It was Kensaki who jumped out first and foremost. Straddling the back of Washio, she cut into the army of imps trying to board from the sky. The goblins attached to the gun turrets on the deck were carrying out covering fire with machine guns. Their boss’ seat had completely been transferred to Gofunkawahara now, they were very helpful as excellent laborers, however, as there wasn’t much margin with the ammunition, they couldn’t afford to waste it.

The orc Okumura and the wild ogre Zeku, Kagoi, Uozumi, Kinogasa and the others as well jumped to the deck one after another. For the ghouls that were trying to climb the outer walls, Shokuzura politely caught them one by one.

“This, is it better if I also move?”

Akai, who had been polishing her nails uninterestedly, murmured such a thing. Gofunkawahara scratched his head.

“Is it okay? Well, if you go out, we’ll be saved. We can not take down the humongous wight kings.”

“Fu~n. Well, once I feel like it, I will do it.”

“Ah, Asuka-chan!”

While saying so, Akai left the bridge. Sakuma also hurriedly followed after her. In the vicinity where the appearance of the two people had disappeared, Inugami who was sitting in the corner slowly rose up. While keeping her hands in the pockets of her skirt, she also tried to leave the bridge. Gofunkawahara glanced over there and called her to stop.

“Ah, Inugami.”

“Ah?”

Apparently, her temper seemed to be considerably bad, the delinquent girl Inugami Hibiki faced this direction with intimidation. However, as Gofunkawahara was friends with the «Akai Chankonabe» ever since the time they were still middle school students, he wouldn't falter against such a thing.

“The changing room is right at the end (of the corridor) when you go down.”  
“It's none of your business.”

While Inugami said so as if spitting, she properly went to the changing room.

“Gofunkawahara, I can see something interesting.”

Nekomiya who was sitting on the bridge said such a thing while tracing her prided whiskers.

“Something interesting?”

“It's the one-on-one fight of Utsurogi group and Red Wing. *Revenge Match*, that kind of atmosphere?”

Turning his telescope to the point she pointed to, he could certainly confirm that Kyousuke and the red winged devil were glaring at each other. For Kyousuke, his whole body was covered in a blue translucent film. That would be Himemizu. Although he could not find Akira's figure this time, they apparently intended to challenge him in the combined state.

*How are they planning to fight against an opponent that even Full Cross couldn't compete against?* Gofunkawahara was wondering such questions, however, from Kyousuke's appearance, he couldn't sense any feeling of

uneasiness at all.

*But if I have to say that there is something bothering me.*

“Nekomiya, I don’t think I would call that a one-on-one fight.”

“Ahh, I see. Since it’s two-on-one, isn’t it?”

On the deck, Sakuma was knocking down the swarming imps all at once with her magic.

“Your Highness, are you safe?”

Slaying imps and ghouls along the way, the knights rushed toward Selena. Following after them, Hakuba and Akira also finally managed to reached her. Selena in a dress, while tightly holding to her spear, desperately nodded. The knights who were her escorts seemed to have injuries covering their whole bodies.

A considerable number of enemy forces was pouring in the fortress line. It was already no longer a situation that you could say that the inside was safe.

Hakuba started indiscriminately putting on recovery magic on the knights who was injured in high spirit. Meanwhile, Akira confirmed the surroundings. *There's no signs of the enemy.*

“Th—that. Utsurogi-san and Rin-san...?”

“The two of them are fighting.”

When Selena’s question was answered briefly, Selena hugged her long spear tightly.

“Is, that so...”

*Could it be that she also is lamenting her own powerlessness?* Akira thought so as he watched Selena’s brooding expression.

“Let’s move for the moment. While protecting Her Highness Princess, we should go to the roof top for now. Hakuba-dono and Akira-dono also, could you please cooperate with us?”

“Of course. Since Selena-san is a transfer student.”

“Tu—rans ... fer?”

Hakuba said some good things in response to the words of the knight.

In accordance to the words the knight most likely to be oldest, they all started moving. Hakuba was shrewd, putting Selena on his back. On the way to the roof, Akira asked Selena like this.

“Princess Selenade, I have one question to ask in expectation of your knowledge.”

“Ah, yes. What is it?”

“Kyousuke now has combine with Himemizu in the compressed state. From your point of view, do you think that they have enough power to go against that red winged devil?”

Selena put a hand on her lips and began thinking with a serious look. Even while being careful about answering, she said clearly.

“Speaking from the conclusion, perhaps, they can do it.”

“Ohh.”

A small joyful sound leaked out from the mouth of Hakuba.

“The most troublesome thing about Red Wing as an opponent is that robust armor. I think the person himself is probably weak against heat and light, but that armor has completely offset that weakness. So, there are two ways you can go about breaking that one.”

While Selena was straddling Hakuba, she raised up two fingers. The knights also was listening to the words of Her Highness Princess who was familiar with monster knowledge.

“Whether you pull off the armor and attack with magic, or you simply overpower him in physical strength.”

“Is it the later that Kyousuke and the other can take?”

“No, from the conclusion, they should be able to take both.” [Notes]

As she spoke those surprising words, everyone was going out to the roof of the fortress line.

The enemies on the battlefield had already been reduced in number quite a lot. That was also because of the fact that the majority of them had already penetrated into the fortress line.

And in the middle of the reddish wasteland, the were the figures of Kyousuke

and Red Wing glaring at each other.

“The problem is how long Utsurogi-san’s skeleton can withstand Rin-san in the compressed state.”

“The person himself said that he will likely not be able to go on for a long time.”

“That’s right, is not it...”

Turning their line of sight a little, the enemy force remaining on the ground was heading toward the heavy cruiser, and the human force was taking a formation following after them. By making a counter attack along with the 2<sup>nd</sup> year class 4 Demon King Army in a pincer movement, most of that fighting force would be destroyed. The battle of Carol which also had 2 Red Wings as her opponents was continuing. Ryuzaki was sweeping away the straggling imps and ghouls from the sky.

If they cleared up the battlefield, the only thing remaining would be sweeping inside the fortress line. Then, if all the war potential was to be put out on the job, that wouldn’t take too long. The battle was heading for convergence.

“But Utsurogi-san and the others can win, right?”

“Ahh, I think so too.”

“Then, I’ll believe in it.”

Selena nodded and kept watching the decisive battle of Kyousuke and the others that was going to start from now.

Glaring at the red winged devil in front of his eyes, Kyousuke took the stance of Jeet Kune Do. Red Wing spat out without even trying to conceal his irritation.

“Playing kung-fu movies at this time? I’m not free enough to be playing around with you.”

“I’m not playing around. I will defeat you.”

Red Wing obviously was wary of Kyousuke. It was because of the decisive blow which was fired earlier, the high-pressure water cannon «*Himemizu 10 Billion Megaton Shot*». That had to be it.

At least in physical combat capability, Kyousuke now had obtained enough

power to fight against Red Wing. That shell was the proof. With that showed just earlier, the contemptuous attitude that he always showed was completely gone.

It was no good to prolong the battle like that. Kyousuke thought of the bones of his whole body that was making *\*mishi mishi\** sound. Even though Kyousuke's body had been reinforced, it could not withstand the density of Rin in the compressed state for a long time.

"Utsurogi-kun..."

"Ahh, I know...!"

Receiving Rin's words who muttered anxiously, Kyousuke took a step forward.

"Tsk...!"

Looking at the foot that started to move, Red Wing clicked his tongue. Perhaps he thought that «*he who strikes first wins*». Faster than Kyousuke could take a second step, he accelerated his body and threw a fist full of power toward here.

"Uooraaa~!"

"Fu!"

Kyousuke accepted the delivered punched with one arm. A heavy feel transmitted to the whole body from his palm.

But that was all. Even though it was the power of the red winged devil that made Ryuzaki flinch, boasting of an unreasonable strength that the class couldn't even come close, for Kyousuke now it was completely manageable. While receiving the punch with his left palm, Kyousuke strongly clenched his right fist.

*First of all, take one punch! Returning everything that we've endured so far, a blow with all my power!*

""OOORYAAA~!!""

Synchronizing his breath with Rin, the return gift with all their strength struck the devil's face. Impact of collision shook the air.

"GUO~OAA~A~!"

The red winged devil raised a scream while rolling on the reddish wasteland. Kyousuke slowly pull pack the extended fist.

Just one punch, this much power just by hitting.

“Well...! It went well, Utsurogi-kun!”

“Ahh...!”

Kyousuke nodded to Rin’s words. *It went well. It is enough to go against him!*

Kyousuke and Rin advanced further to add a pursuit. Aiming at Red Wing who was standing up, they drove a fist in.

A black gauntlet moved and the unleashed fist was received. But the momentum of the punch didn’t stop. Destroying the guard, an impact struck on the armor.

“Guu...!?”

Eating the entire blow, the red winged devil rolled over the wasteland. Before Kyousuke and Rin’s punch which changed the immense water pressure into power, the guard didn’t have any meaning. Even so, Red Wing slowly stood up and resolutely struck back.

“Fun!”

Faster than his opponent’s fist could reach, Kyousuke’s third punch was driven into his abdomen.

“Ku~.... damn! This...! Even if Phase 2 is activated, it is a mere skeleton...!”

While holding down his belly, the red winged devil spat out words of hatred.

“It’s not just me. This power is...!”

There was a feeling that the bones of his whole body were creaking. The high pressure of Rin’s body was getting unbearable for Kyousuke’s body. There wasn’t much time until the time limit. But even so, Kyousuke didn’t stop walking. Rin was supposed to understand it as well, but she did not try to cancel the combined state.

Everyone worked as hard as they could, and little by little it stacked up. The stacked tower was about to reach a height of strength that they could never have reached just a few days ago.

“Stupid!!”

A black energy created a lightning-like effect on both arms of Red Wing. The released black lightning coiled around Kyousuke and Rin’s body. However, Kyousuke still didn’t stop his legs and slowly moved forward. No matter how strong this energy attack was, unless it could even cut through the deep sea itself, it could not reach deep inside (his body).

“No goo ... it hurts!”

The mass contained within Rin’s body dispersed the power. While she was enduring the attack, Kyousuke again swung his fist.

“OOORYAAAAAA~!”

Immediately after the fist struck, a high pressure water cannonball was fired at point-blank range. \*Pishiri\*, along with that sound, a slight crack formed on the robust armor.

“We are ones who carry the Blood of Red Moon, such as, to a skeleton such as this...!”

“I should have said. It’s not my power alone...!”

Adding further pursuits to Red Wing who was leaking curses.

“Himemizu, Akira, Selena-san, Hakuba, Ryuzaki and Akai too! Because everyone lends me their strength little by little...!”

“...!?”

For a moment, the red winged devil widen his eyes in shock, then completely took Kyousuke’s fist. After being blown away, he slowly stood up while holding his stomach.

“Ku, gu...! After all, it was like that...!”

Spreading his wings widely, Red Wing prepared to fly. *He will escape.* Kyousuke thought so.

“More than this, not their opponents...! The King, need to report...!”

“Wait a...! Gu...”

Kyousuke was trying to give chase, but right then, severe pains struck his entire body and he involuntarily dropped to one-knee. His skeleton was

creaking. The limit of wearing Rin in the compressed state was approaching. Anymore than this would be unreasonable, the bones of his whole body would be unable to endure and break down.

“U-Utsurogi-kun! Are you okay!?”

“No—not yet, somehow...!”

“It’s no good to be unreasonable! If it is unreasonable to do it, you can’t be unreasonable...”

Rin’s voice echoed in his head. *Indeed, the battle situation is slanting favorably to here. Even if I am to miss that one here, surely there won’t be any effect to speak of. Our purpose here has almost been achieved already.* However, at that time, another voice other than Rin’s echoed in Kyousuke’s head.

———*Do not let it escape. Kill it.*

It was like a command received from someone, and at the same time it also seemed like an impulse that came up from his own heart. Kyousuke, even while being puzzled by the mysterious voice, lost to the difficult to resist feeling. *If I don’t give a finishing blow to Red Wing who is trying to escape in front of my very eyes right now, it will turn into a serious matter later on.* Such feeling dominated his heart.

The severe pains withdrew like a lie, only the feeling that the bones of his whole body were screaming *\*mishi mishi\** remained. Kyousuke started to slowly get up, glaring at the red winged devil’s back.

“Utsurogi-kun, are you all right...?”

“Ahh, take him down. We can not let him go.”

“Y—yeah...”

That said, the body of Red Wing had already flown a considerable distance away toward the sky. His flying speed was not a big deal. If it was Ryuzaki, he would easily catch up, but whether he was paying attention over here was an entirely different matter. Kyousuke, glaring at the devil’s back as it was, took two steps, three steps, and then started running at a stretch.

Rin also understood Kyousuke’s intention and matched his timing. At the moment when Kyousuke strongly kicked the ground with all of his momentum,

she sprayed a lot of water from the back, boosting the body high up in the air.

“Himemizu Megaton Missile Kiii—————iick!!”

Along with the loud yell of Rin, the flying kick was unleashed to the sky, heading straight toward the back of Red Wing as if it was a missile itself. Red Wing, noticing the shadow of Kyousuke who was pursuing him at a stretch, looked back.

The kick hit the chest of Red Wing who turned back. Precisely dug into the cracked part (of the armor). The missile kick that turned acceleration force into destructive force kicked apart the armor, broke the ribs and became a single stake stabbed into the heart.

The red winged devil vomited blood, and while his pupils turned bright red in seething anger and hatred, he creamed out curses in his death throes.

“This..., doing something like this, you think you can get out of this unharmed...!”

However, the devil’s gaze at that time was directed at neither Kyousuke nor Rin, but rather to someone far away.

“Even without my report, the King will still notice the betrayal of you bastard! You bastard as well won’t be able to escape the King’s domination, QUEE ———EEN!!”

“UOOOOORI~YAAAAAA~A~A~A~AAA~A~A—————!!”

Using all of the water that remained in Rin’s body as a propellant, Kyousuke body broke through the body of Red Wing. The fresh blood that his whole body was bathed in mixed with the jetted water and scattered in the air. Kyousuke and Rin’s body which jumped into the air, eventually lost its inertia and fell back to the reddish ground.

Along with a thunderous roar and a cloud of dust, Kyousuke and Rin got back down. Faster than it could fall to the ground, the body of Red Wing with a large hole opened in his chest turned into ashes as if being burned by the heat of the sun.

“Ne~e, Utsurogi-kun. That guy, what was he saying at the end?”  
“Well...”

Rin asked, but naturally Kyousuke didn't know, he had no choice but to tilt his head.

In the direction that the red winged devil last looked at, there was only the heavy cruiser that Ryuzaki and the others had been riding on since earlier.

“.....”

While sitting on the heavy cruiser's chimney, she was watching a piece of Pawn falling apart.

For a little while, she wanted to make preparation by secluding in the Promised Cemetery, but those guys seemed to have come out from their stupor faster than expected. It didn't seem like she would be able to stop the news from leaking through any further than this. All the pawns who had noticed her betrayal had been successfully disposed of, but it was also just a matter of time for the King to notice.

It was predicted that such developments would occur sooner or later. In addition, the bare minimum necessary «seeds» had already been spread. After that, there was no choice but to trust her «*reliable classmate(s)*».

———*You bastard as well won't be able to escape from the King's domination, Queen!*

The Pawn's death scream had also reached her ears. She knew. That was the fate of the household.

But she hated subordination. Always wanted to be free.

That's why there was a slight regret that she had to use «*domination*» in order to not let that Pawn escape. If it was at all possible, she would like things to go without her having to use such powers from here on.

The other two Pawns as well had just been killed by the human knights. What remained were simply fodders. In just a few hours, the fight would end. In the surroundings of the deck and the warship, her classmates were tidying up the imps and ghouls.

*I do not want to see much use of force, but still, will I help out a little?*

Akai Asuka spread the red wings on her back, and gently jumped off from the top of the chimney.

# Chapter 28: Establishing Peace, Maybe...

After the battle at the fortress line was over, Jindai high-school 2<sup>nd</sup> year class 4 was thus formally welcomed by knight general Carol. Ryuzaki, the class rep, received thanks for escorting Selena back safely as well as thanks for lending their power to resolve the defensive battle at the fortress. As the representative of the class, Ryuzaki inquired about the means to return to the former world and consultation on establishing future cooperation, then like that 2<sup>nd</sup> year class 4 was taken to the royal capital.

Why had it come to that? Naturally speaking it was a matter of course. They saved the First Princess Selenade's life and protected the fortress line which was the vital point of the western defense. So apparently, it seemed that Her Majesty the Queen wanted to personally express her gratitude.

For the time being, the heavy cruiser was placed next to the fortress line, and it was decided that the goblins, skeletons and Zeku were to be left behind, but from attendance number 1 Akai Asuka to attendance number 40 Washio Kouta, a total of 37 people, everyone was invited to the royal capital. [Notes]

And now, Kyousuke was in the royal palace together with Ryuzaki. The coming and going servants as well as the knights of royal guards were interestedly watching the dragon-kin and skeleton.

Ryuzaki's teeth had been chattering in nervousness. It was very surprising that Ryuzaki Kunihiro who carried the nickname of King of Riajuu would show such an attitude.

"Please, Utsurogi...! You only have to be next to me...! You're staff officer Skeleton, right!?"

"A name like a senior executive of evil, I haven't acknowledged it yet..."

Class Rep Demon King Ryuzaki had been waiting for the audience with Her Majesty the Queen like this. Even Ryuzaki with his communication skill, no, perhaps it was precisely because Ryuzaki had that communication skill that he was overly nervous before the audience with the Queen. If you think about it,

they hadn't heard anything about the her personality at all, the only information they knew is *『She was as strong as general Carol in her heyday』* so it might be an unreasonable story.

*By the way, what happened to the King,* he thought, but it seemed the King was still busy flying around outside the country dealing with diplomatic relations. *If it was possible, I would have liked to meet His Majesty the King who seems to be Japanese, but well, that can be said to be impossible.*

*Well, it will be better if I loosen the tension a little bit,* thinking so, Kyousuke decided to bring up the topic that he had been wanting to hear.

"Ryuzaki, how did you manage to make it in time in the end? Thanks to that we were saved though."

It was the battle at the fortress line a few days ago. Even though they received an attack more than 10 hours before that and yet everyone was safe and sound, moreover, the heavy cruiser which was supposed to take quite some more time before completion was moving as well, Kyousuke had many questions regarding these matters.

When asked that question, Ryuzaki seemed to have regained his composure somewhat, saying *『Ahh』* and scratched his forehead.

"First of all, about the heavy cruiser, it was truly by chance that we found an engine in good condition. So we were able to move it. Well, since its armor and such is in tatter, if we want to use it, we're gonna have to fix it again."

"Ahh, is that so. That was lucky."

Kyousuke and the others walked for about 5 days on foot. Still, it wouldn't reach 200 kilometers distance in a straight line. Assuming the speed of the heavy cruiser is about 40kph, they would arrive in 5 hours.

"Utsurogi group's location was grasped by Asuka. I think it's possibly one of the effects of *«blood»*."

"I see..."

Kyousuke looked at his own hand. *Will this be one of the worse side effects?* If it wasn't only his location but Kyousuke's every single move could be monitored by Akai, it might not be a good thing as expected.

*However, as a result, we were saved this time, so well, it's okay.* Because the

main battery was suddenly fired with good timing in the middle of the melee combat, the problems were solved before it could get worse.

*The problem is after this.*

“Speaking of which, everyone was able to escape safely.”

“That is.... Just, there are also various things I don’t understand.”

Ryuzaki’s story seemed to be quite roundabout.

As Ryuzaki was working as the escort of the heavy cruiser, he perceived the attack of the red winged devil and hurriedly ran to the base. It was at that time that he activated Phase 2 «*Complete Dragonization*» for the first time, but speaking from the conclusion, the chance for him to fully wield that power did not present itself.

Returning to the base, he saw Sakuma and the others battling with numerous imps in the corridor. Ryuzaki then assisted them, sweeping away all the small fries and ran toward the dining room. According to Sakuma, the red winged devil had already broken through them and headed to the back of the corridor. Then screams were heard from the dining room, so they might have already been under attack, hearing that, Ryuzaki ran.

However, what Ryuzaki saw when he reached the dining room, was all of his classmates falling unconscious on the floor.

And then, in the middle of the room was the figure of the red winged devil with his heart gouged out, turning into ashes and disappeared.

“Eh? In other words, what does that mean?”

Kyousuke was confused and asked.

“Could it be that someone defeated the red winged devil? Someone among our classmates. Was that person also unconscious?”

“Perhaps they were pretending to be unconscious. If someone in our class has defeated Red Wing, then that person must be more powerful than Utsurogi group’s Full Cross, aren’t they? Since no one has ever showed such behavior before this, it means they’re hiding their power.”

*If so, what is the merit of doing such a thing? I wonder if it’s because they hate to be conspicuous when discovered that they have such power. There’s not*

*enough to come to a conclusion immediately. However, since there was no need for Ryuzaki to lie here, I can see that what he has just said should be the truth.* While Kyousuke was deep in thought, Ryuzaki once again uttered some astonishing words.

“Perhaps, Sakuma and Inugami are aware of who it is.”

“Eh...”

“So if the two of them are aware of it, then 9 out of 10 it will be Asuka. But there’s no evidence.”

That, the lazy Queen of the class, Akai Asuka. The same Akai Asuka who shared her blood with Kyousuke and saved his life.

Kyousuke as well was aware of the power of her unique ability Bloody Corps. *If it is Akai, then it’s not surprising even if she has that much power.*

“Speaking of which, it was only Akai and Inugami whose appearance didn’t changed.”

“Right. Doesn’t it feel a little strange?”

“Speaking of strange, it is certainly strange, but.... I cannot quite grasp what exactly it is even if you say strange.”

“Really.... Is that so—o.”

Ryuzaki held his forehead and sighed. Apparently, the seeds of trouble for Class Rep Demon King had increased once again.

*Speaking of strange.*

When that red winged devil saw Kyousuke’s stance of Jeet Kune Do, he said the words 『Playing Kung Fu Movies』. That man had knowledge of Kyousuke and the others’ home world. Could it be they were very same people who transferred Kyousuke and the others to this world?

*I don’t know. In any case, the mystery is only deepening.*

“Well, the talk about Asuka hiding her power, let’s not spreading it. It may become troublesome.”

“That’s fine and all but apart from that, it won’t be easy for you to go against Akai.”

“There’s no such things. Although hiding her power, Asuka is our classmates, our friends. And in this world, we have to work together. The matter with Asuka

also, I plan to earnestly persuade her, in addition..."

"In addition?"

"I have come to understand recently that it's hard for Asuka to refuse if you instigate Sakuma."

*It seems that this guy Ryuzaki has also understood a lot about how humans would move.*

*Even though we are not humans,* as Kyousuke tried to tsukkomi to himself, he stopped. He recalled Rin's words. She had clearly spoken these words to Kyousuke, 『We're humans』.

『We're not humans though』『Even though we're not human beings』, these classic jokes of the class might possibly be just a bad way of hiding their resignation about the current circumstances. And, Kyousuke thought about it again. *Thinking about it, it appears that Rin still doesn't imitate that kind of things, so she hasn't given up on being 『humans』 yet.*

Since that was the case, Kyousuke had to think so as well.

"Ryuzaki-dono! Sorry to keep you waiting. I will now guide you to the audience venue!"

A bald old man who seemed to be the Prime Minister came walking to this place and said so. Behind him followed two heavy knights. Ryuzaki immediately straightened his back.

"I am sorry for the heavy security. I understand that you two are not evil..."  
"No, it's like holding an unsheathed sword. I think such measures are necessary."

Ryuzaki smiled \*nikori\* with his ikemen lizard face and said so.  
*This guy. Where the heck did that nervousness just now go?*

That said, he had already followed along to the royal palace. Kyousuke, together with Ryuzaki were guided by the old man. They proceeded on a red carpet to the massive doors which slowly opened, inside, on a place several steps higher were two thrones placing side-by-side. Although one of them was vacant, in the other one sat a blonde woman dressed in a blue dress. And then, Selena was standing in a place some distance away.

As Kyousuke group did not know the proper etiquette. For now, they simply

stopped just before entering the audience room and bowed. It was something similar to (the etiquette of) kendo and judo lessons. The woman sitting in the throne made a momentary puzzled expression, but right after, she got up and returned a similar bow.

*She is Selena's mother.* Kyousuke thought that they looked alike. *Though the fact that a sword is placed next to the throne is a little startling.*

"Welcome everyone!"

"Welcome everyone!"

With a gentle smile, the Queen said so. Unlike Selena, the elegance and dignity of a royalty could be felt even from here.

Selena, standing a little distance away, was happily waving her hands.

"I am delighted to meet you at last, Your Majesty the Queen. Municipal Jindai High-school 2<sup>nd</sup> year class 4. I am the class representative Ryuzaki Kunihiro."

"Ah, umm. I'm his escort Utsurogi Kyousuke."

Looking at Ryuzaki who spoke each and every word so smoothly without any hesitation, Kyousuke thought to himself that it wasn't necessary for him to come along after all.

"Kunihiro, Kyousuke.... Ahh, from what I heard from Selena. Kyousuke means «respectful care», Kunihiro means..."

"«Kuni» means country and «hiro» extensive knowledge, Your Majesty."

"Ahh, I see I see."

Smiling \*niko niko\*, the Queen nodded.

"Well then, through Selena, I have received a questionnaire in advance. Briefly summarizing,『Is it possible to return to your world?』and『Is it possible to build a cooperative system with our country?』. During the absence of the king, I have full authority over domestic affairs, so as the chief executive of this country, I will answer your questions."

Saying so, the Queen received a letter from Selena. Apparently, they were

using high-quality paper, not parchment or anything like that.

"First of all, your first question. *Is it possible to return to your world?*". Although it cannot be said to be impossible, it involves considerable difficulties."

"Is it true!?"

*It's not impossible. I didn't think that we would be able to hear those words.*

The tension in Ryuzaki's voice rose.

However, the expression of Her Majesty the Queen was a little severe.

"Because the studies of different world summoning and repatriation are also progressing in this world. Over the last 20 years, the space-time boundary has been unstable, so it won't be too difficult to make a hole. But..."

"But?"

"Even if the repatriation is successful, we cannot return everyone to your original forms."

The Queen however, frankly thrust the cruel reality in front of them.

It seemed that even the Queen who had seen quite a number of trippers, had never heard of the case of changing ones' appearance to monsters during the different world transference. Like this, even if they were to perform the repatriation ceremony, Kyousuke would remain a skeleton, Ryuzaki remained a dragon-kin. If they could not return to being humans, there was no point in going back to their world. This way was unusable.

Ryuzaki looked down in regret. His feelings, Kyousuke understood well. It was like when the long-awaited hope could finally be seen, just to be completely crushed.

"It is too early to feel down, Ryuzaki-san!"

Selena while gripping her fists tightly said so. The Queen took a quick glance at her and said.

"Since Selena wants to explain, I will leave the rest to this girl."

"Leave it to me!"

Unlike Her Majesty the Queen, Princess Selenade didn't seem like a royalty at all, she excitedly came running along to Ryuzaki group. Behind her, several

knights was carrying in a desk. Then a map was spread on top of that desk. Apparently, it seemed to be a map inscribed with the details about the humans' living area on this continent. The two people, Ryuzaki and Kyousuke peered into it.

Selena placed a sign at the westernmost end of the map. Apparently it seemed to indicate the location of this country.

"On this continent, there are renowned magicians who are called the world's three Great Sages."

*Indeed, some fantasy words suddenly jump out.*

"If it is the three Great Sages, can they return us to our original forms?"  
"Mr. Impatient, aren't you!? It's too soon to make conclusions! But well, that's right!"

"I would think so from this context..."

Selena pointed to an especially big country in the middle of the continent and said.

"So, one of the three Great Sages, master Corolla! She lives in the Imperial Capital, even holding peerage in the Empire! However, if everyone was to carelessly go the Imperial Capital, you would only be attacked, so it's no good!"  
"Can you not give us an official letter?"

"Mother will talk about that matter afterward. Also, since master Corolla seems to be the kind of person who is fussy about systematic magic, perhaps she isn't very well informed about the magic to turn everyone back."

*I have no ideas why the name of such a person was mentioned first, but anyway, that person named master Corolla seems to be useless.*

Next, Selena indicated a city somewhat on the western side, close to the Central Empire.

"Next, master Jarolie, based in the Magic City of the Empire! She basically is traveling all over the world, so it's almost impossible to meet her! It's no good!"  
"....."

"She is a leading expert on different world summoning and repatriation, but in the last 20 years, she has only been doing research on large-scale attack magic."

Lastly, Selena grandly move her finger to the easternmost end of the continent. With the Empire as the center point, it was almost the exact opposite direction of the country where Kyousuke and the others were in right this moment. Selena's fingertip finally stopped in the middle of a forest near a small duchy.

"So in the end, the most certain Sage that everyone should rely on is living in this eastern forest, master Majina..."

"Is that person normal?"

"It seems difficult to say normal in anyway, well, it appears that if you pile up enough money they will hear out most requests. Also, because they're only doing strange research, I think it's our best hope for finding a method to return everyone to your original forms."

*However, it's far. It doesn't seem to a distance that we can arrive in a day or two with the land-ship going straight ahead.*

*In addition, that's not the only concerns.* Next to Ryuzaki who was pondering with a difficult face, Kyousuke said a few words.

"But we do not have any money..."

"We will provide you with it."

Her Majesty the Queen easily told them so, Ryuzaki and Kyousuke involuntarily raised their faces.

"Th—that's good, isn't it!?"

"Yes. And then, on to your next question *『Is it possible to build a cooperative system?』.*"

The desk was removed again with the hands of the knights. The Queen, while keeping the letter open, clearly said.

"From the conclusion, it's impossible."

"Uu..."

"No, I won't say that it's completely impossible.... Nevertheless, I cannot help but say that it is exceedingly difficult. As for the reason, there is also the repair of the devastated western fortress line to worry about, but more than just that..."

The Queen raised her face. The gentle smile just now completely vanished

from her expression.

“There were reports coming in stating that the imperial territory as well as the former imperial territory repeatedly received attacks from heteromorphic beings claiming themselves to be the «*Blood of Red Moon*».”

Ryuzaki and Kyousuke swallowed their breath. *Those guys, there's no doubt they are the company of the red winged devils.*

Although those guys were leading monsters such as imps and ghouls during the attack to the fortress line, apparently, they weren't alone, it seemed that monsters that were led by such individuals had appeared in various places. Many small countries suffered catastrophic damage, and the Empire had already called for cooperation of its vassal states.

Apparently, the delay of the King's return was entirely because of such circumstances.

The Blood of Red Moon, with its leader who was called the Red Moon King, seemed to have repeatedly attacked the human forces.

“If you compare it to your world in an easy-to-understand manner, I wonder if it's called «*Demon King*».”

Here, the reason why the Queen said 『not possible to cooperate』 became clear.

A true-blue «*Demon King Army*» had shown up leading a variety of monsters and started to threaten humanity. As a country, it seemed to be impossible to take a standpoint of supporting a Monster Corps, even if it was only 40 of them. And as they heard the story, this country was also a vassal state of the Central Empire.

So they couldn't have an official letter for entering the Imperial Capital.

The very fact that the funds for dealing with master Majina was being prepared for Kyousuke and the others could already be said to be the best cooperation that this country could offer them.

“Still, our country is a countryside.”

The Queen said nonchalantly.

“It won't be a difficult matter to shelter 40 monsters in a countryside. If you

say that everyone will stay still in this country until the heat cool down, we will prepare a reasonable residence for you.”

“.....”

Ryuzaki fell silent. Kyousuke also started pondering about it.

The proposal brought up by the Queen seemed very attractive. This world was going to break into war now. It seemed that the Queen was trying as much as possible so that they would not be dragged into that war. Fortunately, they managed to come to an understanding with the chief executive of this country. Although as monsters, they would be looked upon coldly by the humans, it would still be a much better life than surviving at the base in that dungeon. However, even if the Red Moon King was to be overthrown, it was unknown how long it would take for the continent, with the Empire at its heart, to release their vigilance. There was a feeling that it would be far in the future if said that they would stay still until the heat die down.

*Besides, that.*

*There's also the matter of Kogane.*

“I cannot say anything without discussing it with everyone in the class.”

Finally, Ryuzaki declared so. Apparently, it seemed necessary to hold a 3<sup>rd</sup> class meeting in a different world.

“I got it. That is necessary.”

The Queen only said that much and didn't rush them to make a decision as quickly as possible. However, 『Ah』 recalling something, she said.

“That's right. I apologize that it became the last information.”

“What is it?”

“Was it the day after the first attack to the fortress line? I happened to stay there as well, and then same as you guys, I came across an ogre who is capable of speaking human language.”

“Was it the day after the first attack to the fortress line? I happened to stay

there as well, and then same as you guys, I came across an ogre who is capable of speaking human language.”

“Is it true!?”

Unexpectedly, Ryuzaki lost his composure. *Human language speaking ogre. It is probably about Goubayashi.*

“He struggled to arrive at the fortress with serious injuries. Although Carol was against it, still, we treated his wounds and sheltered him in the fortress line for a few days.”

“Was it only an ogre? Other than that...”

“He was alone. I heard that he lost sight of his companion.”

*It's about Kaoruko who accompanied him. To say losing sight of her, it couldn't be anything gentle. Is it due to an accident, or is it due an incident?* The fact that Goubayashi himself was injured to the point of requiring a few days of treatment accelerated the commotion in Kyousuke group's hearts.

*Could they have been attacked by the red winged devils as well?*

“So, he is...”

“After his injuries were healed, the person himself requested a few more days of training and then headed south.”

“To the South...”

Ryuzaki pondered.

“If everyone doesn't want to stay in the Kingdom and instead aim for master Majina's place, I recommend that you take a detour once to the North or South.”

The Queen told them so, and Selena once again spread open the map.

If going straight east from the kingdom, they would be passing through a big highway. On the way, there were many big countries and cities, including the Empire, so there was a possibility of receiving unnecessary attacks. This kingdom, which was at the westernmost end of the human living area, was surrounded by steep mountains in the North and South. They were told that the relatively safe routes were to take a detour to the side or to head to the East of the continent through the ocean where it was difficult for the Empire's hands to reach.

“I got it.”

Ryuzaki once again knelt on one knee and lowered his head to the Queen. Kyousuke also hurriedly imitated him.

“Thank you for your thoughtfulness. Your Majesty.”

“Whatever way you may choose, I pray for your good luck.”

Kyousuke and Ryuzaki, as they were, lowered their heads to Selena, and left the audience room behind.

In the Kingdom, it seemed that a bazaar was held once a week. It was organized by the Continental Guild, which was said to have a lineup not often seen in this country locating in the countryside of the continent. The students of 2<sup>nd</sup> year class 4 were allowed to go to the big bazaar under the condition that they were to be supervised by the knights.

As a result of close to 40 monsters coming out, the citizens were given a good scare. Obstruction to business was also thought to be serious, but once it was understood that they were harmless, the bazaar gradually regained its energy.

Kyousuke and the others, when leaving the palace, headed to the bazaar. Everyone in the class had received some pocket money under the pretext of a reward for protecting Princess Selenade. As it was 『shopping』 for the first in over a month, the spirit of the students had increased considerably.

“Inugami-san, what are you looking for?”

“...Underwear. When I transform, it’s troublesome to take off.”

“Ca—cannot be that you’re not wearing any...”

This was a conversation between Sakuma and Inugami. The figure of Akai wasn’t around. That girl was going around the bazaar with her followers, Harui and Hebitsuka. The girls were in high spirits because of the unusual perfume and cosmetics of the different world. The merchants of the Merchant Guild were truly indomitable, even if the other party were monsters, they wouldn’t step back and instead continued to do business as usual.

As usual, Sugiura was looking for rare ingredients and new cooking utensils. After all, there was a limit to substitute pots, kitchen knives, etc that could be excavated from the dungeon. Hanazono was looking for seeds and seedlings, and Kumosaki was looking for clothing accessories.

“Oi, Salmon. Look at this. It’s Japanese manga...”

“It’s true. It has been translated into this world’s language.”

The schoolboys were more free. They simply looked for rare things, surprising things and guffawed together. Completely the mood of a field trip. Well, looking at it from a different perspective, being in this different world could be said to be a field trip of some kind.

As for the students who were trying to buy indulgent goods like bewitching shunga, alcohol and tobacco, they were being chased around by the public morals committee member Kensaki with her newly bought wooden sword.

Although their original forms had yet to return, it felt like they finally could spend their time as humans after a long while.

“Yahhoo, Utsurogi-kun!”

Rin while bouncing *\*tappon tappon\**, came up to Kyousuke’s place.

“Himemizu. What did you buy?”

“Because they were selling some cool-looking stones, I bought it! Look, it’s extremely cool!”

“You didn’t hesitate to splendidly throw away your money into such dubious things...”

Looking at the extremely cool-looking stones that could be picked up at a nearby riverbank that Rin proudly displayed, Kyousuke felt lukewarm.

“What about Akira?”

“I’m looking for interesting books.”

“Really. That seems like you.”

“You’ve met Queen-sama, right? How was it? Did you understand anything?”

Finished putting away the stones in her knapsack, Rin asked. Given that the knapsack wasn’t being carried on her back, it was doubtful whether it was necessary to put things inside, well, such matter was a problem of feeling. When asked whether he understood anything, Kyousuke felt down.

*There are a lot of things that we know. However, there are also many things that need to be decided at the same time.*

“Does Himemizu want to turn back to normal?”

"Well, that's right~. Does it seem to be difficult?"

"It doesn't seem easy."

Because Ryuzaki was going to told the whole class again tomorrow. Kyousuke gave a brief explanation about the story he heard during the audience to Rin, all at once. The fact that it was necessary to borrow the hand of one of the three Great Sage of the continent, master Majina, as well as the long journey to get there. And then, touching the subject of living care-free in this country as per the suggestion of the Queen.

"I see~."

Rin nodded.

"In this case, it seems that the opinion of the class is going to split."

"It will?"

"Just maybe, I think that it won't be safe even if we were to be sheltered by this country."

The words that she said so clearly was unexpected. Kyousuke tilted his head.

"Why do you think so?"

"No matter how you think about it, the reason why those Red Wings attacked the base was because of us."

Even if they were to be hidden away in a safe place inside this country, the red winged devils were aiming for 2<sup>nd</sup> year class 4. There was plenty of possibility that they would invade inside the country disguising themselves as humans, or even simply attacked directly from the front, it wasn't hard to imagine that the heat would reach them.

And as the battle intensified, if it became known that they were aiming for Kyousuke and the others, the citizens' anger would turn over here. There was a possibility that the dissatisfaction and distrust of the royal family might grow stronger, and there would be no room to shelter some monsters of unknown nature.

"Why the heck are those guys aiming for us in the first place?"

"They were saying whether we would be useful or not..."

*In any case, it's useless. I don't understand at all. Some predictions can be*

*made, but none of those are convincing.*

*We found out many things. But there's still too much that we don't understand.*

"Well, now is not the time to think about such difficult stuffs!"

"Waa..."

Rin raised a cheerful voice and slapped Kyousuke's back. As the battle a few days ago had exhausted all of her water storage, she was now completely in normal mode. Still, her back slap was quite strong.

"It's useless even if we were to worry by ourselves, we should share the troubles with everyone tomorrow."

"Ah, yeah.... Well that's right."

"Hoi~, that's that! Let's have a taste of these delicious-looking delicacies that I bought!"

"The cool-looking stones?"

"No, that is kinda.... It's this~!"

From her knapsack, Rin took out jerky and stuffs one after another. It seemed that she had bought a lot.

He felt that her cheerfulness was quite helpful. If Rin wasn't here, Kyousuke might have been crushed by the weight of the situation long ago. And it wasn't just Kyousuke. Surely, Akira was the same. That guy looked like that, but it appeared that he was deeply grateful to Rin.

*That everyone can work hard little by little.*

*And also that we ourselves are humans. She taught us so.*

"Thank you. Himemizu is amazing."

"Ehhh!? What? Suddenly thanking me!? Wait a mi ... yeah! You are welcome!"

Rin suddenly became confused, and it was Rin who repeatedly made rapid deformations, but at the end she said so clearly.

"To~tsu, for now, take a seat on that bench! Let's eat! I also bought some juice ... ahh, it spilled..."

"So you are a colored marble now?"

"Eh~, it's a lie. Is it dissolving in me? What to do? Utsurogi-kun, dr-drink...?"

"I can drink it but..."

Kyousuke scratched his head \*pori pori\*.

“Since the part that I drink will just spill like that, somehow it feels terribly wasteful.”

“It will be perfect if I drink that part! Amazing! We can enjoy each others’ tastes indefinitely!”

“Himemizu who can think up such an idea and still say that we ourselves are humans is amazing...”

In the end, Kyousuke decided to buy the juice that Rin spilled again. After this, whether they stayed in the country, or left the country, they probably wouldn’t have much time to behave like humans in the human living area.

*Then, at the very least, I should fully enjoy the only time we can still doing shopping like now.*

By the way, the juice that he bought and drank was completely taken by Rin in the end.

My Entire Class Has Been Reincarnated — I Became the Weakest Skeleton!

# Dried Teacher Katsubushi - Lesson 02: Selena! Believe in yourself!

“GUA, GAAAAARGH...!!”

Today as well, my lively screams echo in the kitchen. As I have long gotten used to Phase 2, my body's sense of pain is being gradually paralyzed, but when I suddenly became quiet during the shaving, Sugiura this girl was unusually worried, so I feel obliged to continue screaming everyday for my cute student. However, my realistic acting seems to be tormenting Sugiura's spirit, and she still has an unpleasant expression on her face as before. What do you say I should do? [Rants]

My name is Katsubushi Dashihihiko.

Formerly the homeroom teacher of Municipal Jindai High-school 2<sup>nd</sup> year class 4, now just a dried bonito.

You should be able to understand even if I don't explain it again. We tripped to a different world. All my cute students became monsters, and then, I myself became a dried bonito. Ever since then, I've been secretly living in Sugiura's kitchen. Good grief, I have completely given up.

By the way, I have acquired a unique ability call «*Infinity Regeneration*». This is the *Phase 2* thing that I mentioned earlier. I can regenerate by body no matter how much it's shaved down. Convenient, right? It's not surprising even if you call it a cheating ability. If only I wasn't a dried bonito, that is.

Talking about that topic, Sugiura Aya who is in charge of 2<sup>nd</sup> year class 4's kitchen said this in amazement.

“Sensei, what kind of dried bonito can make soup stock infinitely, that's a good cheat as well.”

Sure, it may be so.

Today as well, the soup stock made from my flaked bonito is satisfying the students' stomachs. That is the limit of sensei's favor.

By the way, it seems that there are a few changes to the class that I am concerned about from my standpoint as a teacher.

“Sugiura-san, is it true that a transfer student came to this class?”

Honno-san the guidebook puts into words the things that I wanted to ask.

“Ah—, yeah. The human Selena-san and the ogre Zeku-kun. It seems that Utsurogi-kun and the others protected them.”

“Human! There are also humans in this world after all.”

Honno-san says so in an extremely cheerful voice. I understand your feelings. At any rate, ever since I came to this world, the living creatures that I've seen are only Sugiura, Hino, Ryuzaki and then Honno-san. Frankly though, it's doubtful whether Hino and Honno-san can even be considered living beings. One month has already passed since we came to this world. It's about time the students get used to a life full of monsters. And then a human is suddenly thrown into the fray, so their tension must be rising. Of course, there are also students who are close to humans such as Kogane, Sakuma, Akai and Inugami, but the very fact that *『Humans exist』* may very well become a new hope for everyone.

However, Sugiura's expression is strangely bitter.

“What's wrong? Sugiura.”

“That Selena-san, she seems to be an awfully clumsy girl, isn't she?”

“Fumu...?”

“She couldn't become a fighting force for the exploration teams and she has been failing also when she go around helping the base personnel...”

“I see.”

Well, clumsy students like that could be found anywhere. In our class, Kogane is like that as well.

However, I think that it could be a little bad in these extreme conditions where your life could be lost at anytime.

“Although I think it will be fine at first, but the dissatisfaction of our classmates will eventually piled up.”

“I guess. Look like class rep's burden is going to increase again...”

“Well, if anything comes up, bring Ryuzaki to this kitchen again. The only things

I can do is giving consultation and making soup stock..."

"Ah—, yeah."

\**Shaa~, shaa~*\*, while sharpening her kitchen knife, Sugiura nods.

"Well, it seems difficult. Class rep now has quite a lot of support from the other children, so it's okay."

"Really.... I'm happy, and lonely too..."

*Happy*, obviously, is because my students have grown independent and parted from my hands. In my opinion, children perhaps are not children to the extent that adults think. And at the same time, adults are not adults to the extent that children think.

I was worried what would happen when Goubayashi disappeared, but Ryuzaki has properly unified the class now. It's a good thing.

While I am immersed in sentiment on my own, Sugiura finishes sharpening her kitchen knife and suddenly says this.

"You see, sensei. That Selena-san, it seems that she is assigned to the kitchen today."

"Hohou."

"She might come soon. Therefore, sensei..."

"Ahh, I understand. As the homeroom teacher of 2<sup>nd</sup> year class 4, I have to properly greet the transfer student!"

"No, that's not it..."

As Sugiura is trying to say something, there is sound of running \**bata bata*\* coming from the direction of the dining room, and then a single girl come through the noren into the kitchen.

"Sorry to keep you waiting! Sugiura-san, I'm Selena! I'm pleased to meet you, today!"

"Ah—, yeah..."

Unusually, Sugiura floats a bitter smile and scratches her cheeks.

I turn my eyes toward the transfer student Selena who dashingly enters the scene. Since it was said that she is a human of a different world, I was wondering what kind of appearance she actually has, but she is a Caucasian

with blonde hair, blue eyes and porcelain-white skin. Since it's a reddish-brown wasteland outside the dungeon, there is also a possibility of her being brown skin Mongoloid and such. By the way I like brown girls. It's even better if it's healthily tanned like in the sport clubs, but my stars of hope, such as Himemizu of the track-and-field club seems to be the type to properly perform UV care, it's truly deplorable.

No well, it's fine. Anyway, it's about Selena. Since my maternal parents' house is operating a well-established dried-goods store, I understand that the clothes which Selena wears used some fairly high quality clothes. Its structure is one which emphasizes mobility with a body armor put on top. Could she actually be a soldier of aristocrats?

I greet Selena with as refreshing a voice as possible.

"Hi, you are the transfer student, Selena right? I am Katsubushi Dashihiro. I'm the homeroom teacher of 2<sup>nd</sup> year class 4!"

"Hi~yaaaaaa! The wooden sword spoooooeee!!"

This girl, to be able to discern the origin of the sudden voice like that, she must hold quite some observation power. I cannot take her lightly.

Putting a hand on her forehead, Sugiura grandly sighs. What's wrong Sugiura? What's with that typical \*yare yare\* attitude?

"Selena, I'm not a wooden sword. I'm a dried bonito. But perhaps you're not familiar with it..."

For now, correct what you need to make corrections without fail.

"Eh, ah, ha, ha~a..."

"It is said to be the hardest fermented food in the world. I don't actually know whether it's true or not though. As for the recipe, first of all is bonito..."

"A few words, sensei!"

"Waa!?"

And Sugiura snatches me with one of her many octopus legs, she then moves to a corner of the kitchen and starts whispering to me.

"(You see, concerning Selena-san, do not talk to her about the matter of our transference!!)"

“(Is that so? But I don’t think we need to bother to do such a thing...)”

“(I also think so, but since it’s the policy of class rep! Sensei has to follow as well!)”

*Y-yea, I guess.* I give a big groan. I don’t think there’s much merits in hiding our circumstances from Selena here. Well, it’s impossible to say that there’s zero possibility of this girl being a monster hunter who was sent by the human country to infiltrate our class and destroy it from inside, so does Ryuzaki want to observe her behaviors as expected?

Even so, since Ryuzaki is worrying about it alone, he maybe simply overthinking things.

In any case, since it was said to be Ryuzaki’s policy, I will abide. After all, before being a teacher, I am just an ordinary dried bonito now.

“Umm, say, what’s wrong...?”

Selena is tilting her head in puzzle.

“Ahh no, yeah. I am Katsubushi Dashihiiko. I’m a dried bonito. Feel free to call me sensei!”

“It’s sensei! I got it!”

“An honest and good reply! So then, continue from just now, a dried bonito is...”

When I unsparingly show off my knowledge as the son of a dried-goods store, Selena nods with a serious expression.

“So that’s it.... It’s a food ingredient to make soup stock.”

“Did you understand? What is this Sugiura, isn’t she quite a good girl?”

“Umm—, ah—, yeah...”

Sugiura’s temple is strangely twitching. What on earth are you angry about? Perhaps calcium deficiency. Doctor neglecting their health? A cook is having nutritional deficiencies?

Sugiura takes a deep breath and regains her composure, she then speaks to Selena.

“Again, I’m Sugiura Aya. Selena-san is going to help out in the kitchen from now, but can you cook?”

“Um–umm.... Because it’s mostly my father who cooks at home...”

“I see.... Well, it cannot be helped then. First of all, can you shave sensei?”

“Ehhh!? The difficulty level is so high all of a sudden, but ... I will do my best!”

After Selena receives a knife from Sugiura, she grabs me with a grim face. I thought that it would be a more rugged and callused feeling because she was said to be a spear user, but all I can see from my eye-level is a delicate and soft palm. It is pleasantly moisturized. No, moisture is still prohibited for dried bonito.

Well, what. Since it’s Selena who is doing the shaving, I don’t think it is necessary to scream. Rather than that, I will give her some simple advices. It’s difficult to shave thinly after all.

“Is that fine? Selena, it’s about time to shave me, but it’s going to be hard at first...”

“I’ll do it!”

Ji~yori~! Tsuru~! Gusa~!

“KIGYA~YAAAAAAA!!”

“Selena!?”

This way, I obtain the memorable experience of seeing this world’s human’s blood for the first time among the members of 2<sup>nd</sup> year class 4 who have transferred to this world.

As expected, look like it was too reckless to suddenly shave a dried bonito from the start. Sugiura apologizes to Selena, then calls Hakuba to treat her wound, and it is decided to have her cut cucumbers this time. These were harvested from Hanazono’s home garden. I think that among the many vegetables, cucumber is one of the less difficult one to cut.

But Selena once again spurts out fresh blood.

After Selena has her wound healed by Hakuba, her knife is confiscated and she is entrusted with dishes washing. However, should I say «as expected», she naturally breaks the dishes, and then when she is entrusted with the job of a waitress, she naturally makes a grand fiasco, throwing the food to the floor. As far as I know, Sugiura Aya is a relatively gentle and rational student. Normally, even if her methodical part is irritated by the bad arrangements, she

will still be able to swallow her anger and instead express constructive opinions.

And as I witness that very same Sugiura desperately suppressing the urge to scatter angry shouts everywhere, my liver chilled.

Every time Selena makes a blunder, the voltage of Sugiura's anger goes up a level, but in the end, she grandly takes a deep breath and says to her.

"Thank you. Selena-san, it's fine to stop here today."

In response to those words, Selena has a blank look, but before long, she floats a smile like she has guessed everything, and after momentarily lowering her head, she leaves the kitchen.

"Good job enduring it. You're great, Sugiura."

"Yeah. I also think Sugiura-san is splendid."

As I and Honno-san praise her one after another, Sugiura smiles bitterly.

"Well, even if I could endure it, I feel that someone else will completely snap."

There's that too. Even I also am feeling quite bitter. Looking at Selena, I can tell that she is not doing it with any ill will. In addition, saying that she cannot do any and everything is impossible.

It's also my duty as a teacher to discover my students good points and further develop them. That said, Selena is different from other students. There's no student record, no handover, and I hasn't been able to slowly get along with her to analyze her disposition as well. She is a completely unknown student.

Even at such a time, I cannot move my hands and legs, it's truly frustrating.

"I think that the whole class should try to come to an understanding with Selena a bit more."

"Do you mean we should be more open to each other?"

"Open your heart in a true sense, I feel that we are too conscious of each other as of now."

We should properly tell Selena about our situation, then take our time listening to the full account of her story as well. Why doesn't Ryuzaki do that and instead makes her do the same jobs as the other students? Perhaps Ryuzaki is afraid of causing antipathy from his classmates with a *special treatment*.

Well, rather than a transfer student, I suppose Selena is closer to being an international student. It's the situation where they cannot properly grasp the sense of distance.

At times like these, it's supposed to be my turn as a teacher, but I wonder how much I can intervene with this dried bonito body of mine. I give a big sigh in my mind.

As a matter of fact, It didn't take long until the day when we told Selena the circumstances of this 2<sup>nd</sup> year class 4.

However, on that very same day, an unforgettable incident occurred in the class.

It was the attack of the red winged devil.

My dear students have either been kidnapped or received serious injuries, which is an unpleasant incident to me.

“Really...”

It was after everything had finished that I heard the story. Utsurogi received a fatal injury, and Kogane was kidnapped. It's a bolt out of the blue. Thinking about the disaster that befell my students, I also am feeling quite impatient.

“I'm sorry Sugiura, if I had been more solid...!”

“And, I think that even if sensei gets anymore solid than you already are it won't make any different in this case...”

*The unidentified red winged devil.* It was in the middle of a class meeting being held in the dining room that we received his attack. Ryuzaki and everyone also, once again realized the necessity to exchange information with Selena in earnest. Speaking from me, I feel that it was a little too late, well, I suppose that's what you call the nearsightedness of humans in high-pressured circumstances. Perhaps it's because I was left out of the loop like this that I managed to realize such things.

In any case, the breakdown of the class with Selena at its center has been

avoided. Both I and Honno-san were honestly pleased when we heard this story. It will be good if Selena can fit into the class better with this as a trigger.

And as I thought so, the red winged devil attacked.

Apparently, that red winged devil was the perpetrator who annihilated Selena's colleagues. Although it's unknown what kind of use he has for my cute students and this class, from his manner of speaking, it seems that he is clearly involved in our trip to this different world.

When I heard this story, my guts seethed in anger. Not only did he involve my students, he captured one of them, and inflicted a serious injury to another. I will beat him to a pulp if I have any limbs.

"I'm sorry Sugiura, If I was stronger...!"

"Because sensei is a dried bonito, it is natural that you are weaker than everyone."

"I am disqualified as a teacher! I could not prevent Utsurogi and Kogane from meeting such cruel fates...!"

"It cannot be helped. The matter this time..."

Even though Sugiura says so, this sense of helplessness dominating my entire being cannot be easily dispelled.

"Ah—, geez. Sensei, don't become so gloomy. You're damp."

Sugiura grabs me with one of her octopus legs and starts to dry me over a fire.

"Ahh, roast me more.... It's a fitting end if someone like me is burned to death..."

"Dried bonito-sensei's mental strength is as tough as tofu..."

"That's right. My body is a rotten fish and my mind is a rotten bean..."

"Sugiura-san, sensei is seriously ill..."

Honno-san gives a little worried voice. However, I am not a man worthy of such concern.

What kind of teacher cannot save his students when they are in a crisis. No matter how much self-important things I say, in the end I am nothing but an all talk good-for-nothing. Moreover, I have now become this form which doesn't even have a mouth. I have nothing. Nothing. I am empty.

A useless teacher who cannot do anything that he should do as an adult. That is

me.

“I guess I have no choice, sensei...”

Sugiura says so and puts my body on a shelf with a thump.

“Sensei, there’s this student, I want you to give her some consultations.”

“What kind of advice I can give? I cannot even fulfill my minimum duty as a teacher.”

“But that’s only your own worry, if sensei turns away a student’s SOS at your own convenience like that, can sensei call yourself a teacher?”

“Muu...”

Receiving those words, I cannot even say anything.

This worry is my own circumstance. No matter how pathetic I am, I cannot display this shameful appearance, if there is a student who wants me to teach them, then as a teacher I should accompany them even if it’s only by bluffing. Certainly, I am a useless dried bonito who couldn’t even do his minimum duty as an adult, but even so, that’s no reason to stop fulfilling my duty as an adult.

It’s difficult to be adults.

“All right. Let’s get on with the consultation. In these circumstances, people who are having a tough time should be together...”

Sugiura goes through the noren into the dining room, and then immediately brings back a girl.

“Gu...”

I involuntarily swallow my breath.

Hanging her head down, with a face as if she could cry at any moment, Selena, the rumored transfer student comes in.

“Sensei.... Please scold thoughtless and incompetent Selena...”

Selena says so in a seriously depressed state.

“Wh-what’s wrong? Selena, it’s not good to depreciate yourself.”

Saying so, the thrown words boomerang on me and pierce me deeply.

“Sensei, I am a useless person. No matter what I do I will just drag everyone

down, even the matter this time, I couldn't help Utsurogi-san and Kogane-san. If I were more solid...!"

"N-no, in this case, I think that it won't make a difference even if Selena was more solid...?"

"But! If I was stronger...!"

"Se—Selena is a human after all, so I think it's natural that you're weaker than a monster?"

"But! I! What kind of knight apprentice am I if I cannot help when my comrades are in a crisis! No matter how much self-important things I say, it only feels like showing off, I am just an all talk good-for-nothing in the end! A hopeless human who couldn't even do their minimum as a comrade, that's me!"

This girl, honestly, did she hear our conversation from just now?

When I glance at Sugiura, she is boiling water in a pot while singing and humming.

I guess so.

If that's the case, then she knew it would turn out like this and brought Selena. Since she has the exact same trouble as me, it will be very hard to deal with. What kind of comforting words I can even say, won't it be heard as merely self-justifying words?

*If you don't put your heart in it, your words won't reach the other party.* That is my belief as a teacher. That's why, when returning sincere words to the students' troubles, I must firmly believe in those words from the bottom of my heart. This is quite a difficult problem.

But that's my circumstances after all. I should not rely on such circumstances in the case of Selena.

"Is that right? Selena, what is the minimum actions that you do as a comrade?"

"Eh? Umm, that, umm.... That is to say, helping your comrades when they're in trouble..."

"From what sensei sees. That is, I don't think there is anything such as «minimum actions»."

"Eh..."

Receiving my words, Selena is confused. It's quite difficult to lie to my heart, but even so, I have to cough up some words that are pleasing to the ears.

"After all, such a thing is no more than a framework that is applied from outside. Each person has different things they are good at. There is no way that kind of framework is completely applicable. Sensei knows well that Selena has been doing your best."

"But.... I'm no good, I'm useless! I, am thoughtless, and incompetent!"

"I think it's only because you think inside the box. Selena, be more flexible. And believe in yourself."

"Believe in myself, what part of me do you say I can believe in...!"

Mu, formidable. Of course. Selena right now is the same as myself. With words that I myself am not convinced of, I cannot convince Selena.

But still, I am a teacher. I have an obligation to resolve Selena's trouble.

If I cannot even save a single student, then I'm beyond help.

There's no other choices, time for the last resort.

"Sugiura, Shave me~e!!"

"Yes ye~s."

As if she has been waiting for it, Sugiura immediately puts her knife on my body. With practiced hand, she produces one piece, two piece of thin bonito flakes. I raise a scream.

"GUWAAAAAAA!!"

"Se-sensei!?"

"Do not look away, Selena! It's fine! When Utsurogi and Kogane were in a dilemma, I couldn't do anything! What I could do was absolutely nothing! If you are powerless, than so am I! I am the same good-for-nothing! But ... argh! It ... hurts! Somehow it really hurts!"

An intense pain like my own nerves are being shaved off struck, and I feel like writhing my body. However, I don't have a flexible enough body to writhe.

"Bu-but! But Selena! Even someone such as I have something that I can do! I can do nothing but one! Even though it's very small, surely it has some meaning!"

“Do you mean to say it’s this!?”

“That’s right!”

Sugiura throws my shavings in a pot. A fragrant aroma of soup stock gradually fills the entire kitchen.

Sugiura scoops out the soup stock into a bowl with a ladle and presents it to Selena.

“Drink, Selena-san. It’s the soup stock from sensei.”

“Y—yes...”

Selena receives the bowl and gently puts it to her mouth. The bonito soup stock made from myself slowly enters her mouth, passing her throat and ends up in her stomach.

“Delicious...”

Selene murmurs a few words of praise.

“It’s delicious...”

“It would be so.”

I nod along with a soft voice.

“This is the limit of what I can do. But you drink it and says that it’s delicious. Surely, that alone has some meaning. I cannot save my precious friends, I maybe just a powerless good-for-nothing, but as long as I am doing my best, then that alone has some meaning.”

“Sensei...”

“Selena, you surely has it. First of all, try to understand all and everything that you’re capable of. You will surely discover your very own soup stock.”

“Yes.... Thank you very much ... ~tsu.”

Selena lowers her head with a slightly tearful voice. Drops of tear flow down her cheeks into the bowl, adding more salt to my bonito soup stock. That is also good. The soup’s flavor will change simply with a few drops of tear. And like that, she will eventually discover her very own flavor that only she can deliver.

“You are crying, Selena. Come now, face off against that setting sun...”

“Sensei~i!!”

“Uo~o~!?”

Finally overcome with emotion, Selena tightly hugs my body. Looking at it from outside, it would appear as a spectacle of a girl hugging a wooden sword.

"Sensei! Thank you very much. I will do my best...!"

"Ah, yea. Ou.... But no, this is, yeah..."

No, substantial.... It's substantial. It seems that Selena is the type to look slender in clothing. I don't know how much the average of this world is, but if she's like this at the age of 16, then I feel like I can have much expectation in her future.

I want to stroke her head like this, but of course I don't have any hands. Well, it feels like I would receive some extra long sermons from the vice-principal if I was to do this when I was still a human.

It seems a little wasteful. But I guess it's fine like this.

After that, Selena seemed to have told everything to Ryuzaki and the others. And I also heard that Ryuzaki and the others told Selena everything.

And then after a few more days, I and Honno-san are moved to the heavy cruiser which is under renovation. With the installation of the engine and caterpillars. And then finish the repair of the ship's bottom and it seems to be enough for the ship to move for the time being. That seems to be the case, but even if you says so, when I heard the story of the renovation of the land-warship for the first time, I was quite astonished. This is already at the level of *Over-Technology*. Apparently, this is the result of Kuremori fully utilizing his racial abilities.

So, we will be arriving at Selena's hometown. As a matter of fact, I have already known that Selena is a princess, I also want to have a (three-way) parent-teacher conference with her mother, but well, let's save that talk for next time when they have some free time.